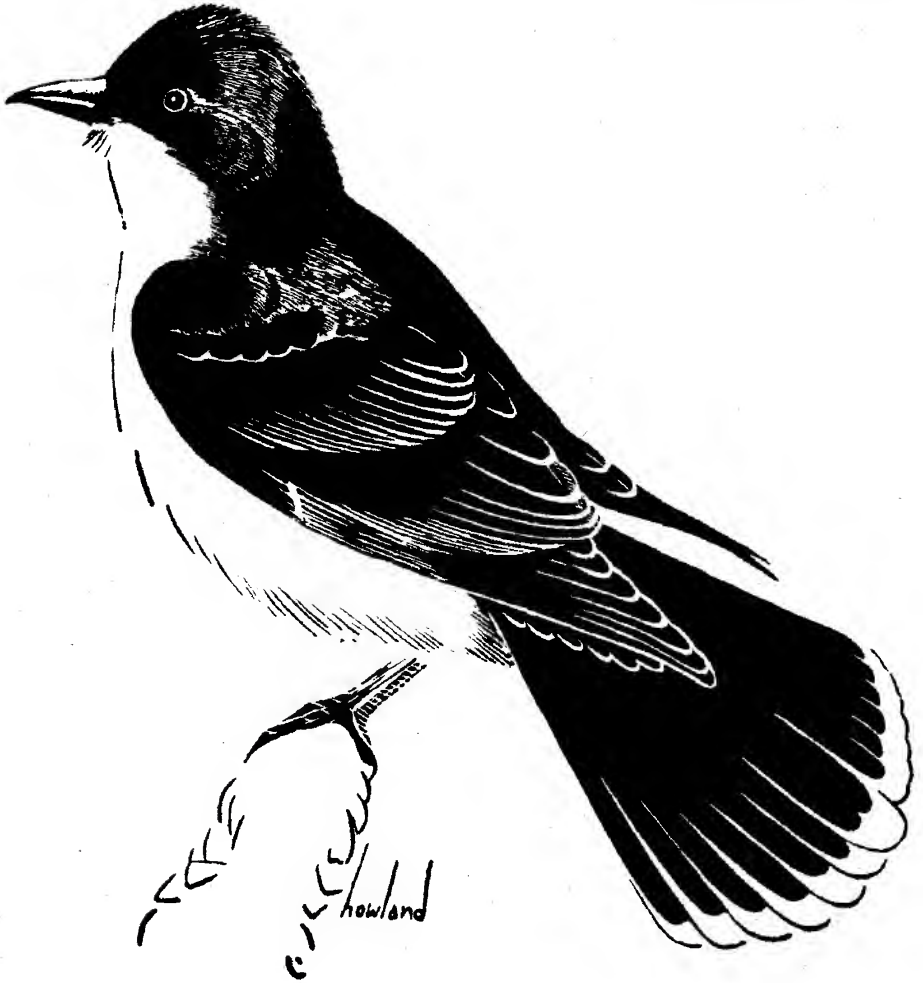


# *The* **KINGBIRD**



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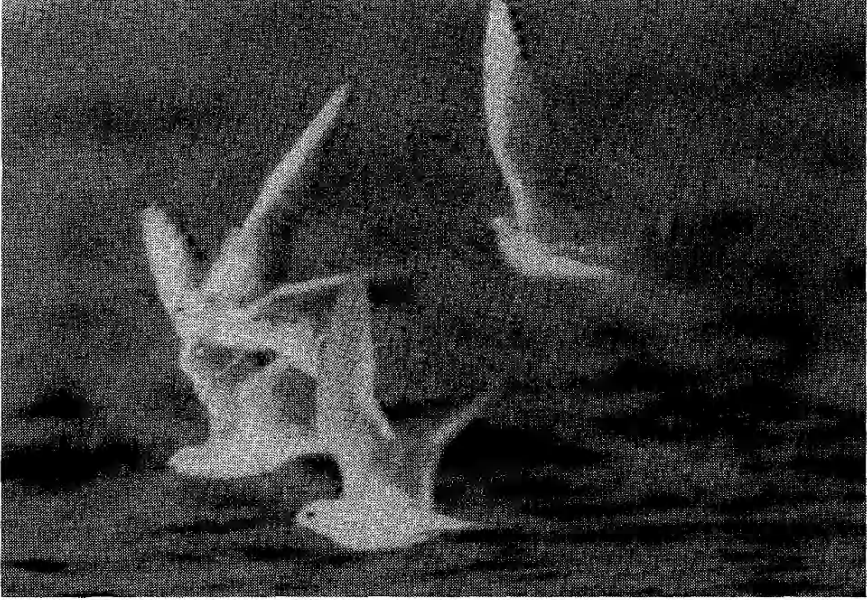


Figure 1. Adult Ross's Gull in flight (above) and swimming (below) at Point Lookout, Nassau County, New York, 17-30 March 1994. Photographs by Tom Vezo.

## PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES 62: ROSS'S GULL IN NASSAU COUNTY

EMANUEL LEVINE

It was St. Patrick's Day, 17 March 1994, when the author in company with Lester Feldman and Alvin Wollin made a biweekly winter visit to view Jones Inlet from the Point Lookout side in Nassau County. As usual, there were hundreds of Bonaparte's Gulls, some in flight, some in the water, and some sitting on sand bars in the inlet. We had come to search for the Little and Common Black-headed Gulls which had been seen there the previous weekend. While looking over the assembled birds, my eye was drawn to one bird that was sitting on a sandbar about 300 feet from us in a group of some thirty or forty Bonaparte's Gull. It had a distinctly pink flush on its breast. I called this to the attention of my companions and we immediately each trained our scopes on the bird.

It was visibly smaller than the Bonaparte's Gulls. It had a distinctly shorter bill than Bonaparte's Gull and its bill was all black. As it turned its head from side to side, it looked as if the bill had a pale base on one side. Later examination with 60 power lens, however, showed that to be feathering on the base on that side. At that point, I suspected that we were looking at a Ross's Gull, but the bird was head on and did not afford a total view. We could see that the head and neck were white, and the eye appeared to be large and black, and there was a small post-ocular smudge. However, the bird showed no inclination to reveal the rest of itself. Asking my companions to keep on eye on our quarry, I rushed to the car which was parked several hundred yards away in order to consult Grant (1986). I hurried back with the book as fast I could. When I arrived and was told the bird had flown and was lost in the myriad Bonaparte's Gull that were swirling through the air, my heart sank. However, it suddenly put down again in approximately the same spot where we had found it, giving us the same frontal view. After about half an hour, it took off again, and this time the distinctive wedge-shaped tail was observed, as well as the extensive white area in the trailing edge of the wings, and the gray underwings. When the bird was observed floating in the water, the outer primary showed as a complete black edge on the closed wing (Fig. 1). The mantle was very light gray, much lighter than the mantle of a Bonaparte's Gull. Its legs were dull red.



Now that we were sure of what we were seeing, it was time to alert local birders. Unfortunately, I could not find a working phone in Point Lookout and had to return all the way to Jones Beach to use a telephone. The only number I knew by heart was Berna Lincoln's in Somers, Westchester County. Luckily, she was home and called Tony Lauro at his office in Nassau County. We then rushed back to Point Lookout, relocated the bird and soon we were joined by Tony, John Fritz, and Pat Lindsay, whom Tony had contacted at once. Several more people arrived that first day after we left and saw the bird. As expected, when word got around about the find, birders started pouring in from near and far. The Point Lookout authorities very obligingly opened the small parking lot just west of the jetty to accommodate cars and, in general, were cooperative. Nobody kept count, but I believe it is quite safe to say that the inlet was visited by several hundred birders over the next couple of weeks. The Ross's Gull was seen again on 18, 20, 22, and, I believe for the last time, 30 Mar.

The only previous record from New York State is of a single bird seen at Montauk, Suffolk Co., on 11 December 1986 (Reddall 1988). The main breeding grounds of Ross's Gull is northern Siberia. It has nested sporadically in other arctic and subarctic locations and evidently continues to nest in small numbers in northeastern Manitoba at Churchill. It appears to winter primarily at sea in arctic waters.

*585 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, New York 11550*

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## **A 300 SPECIES NEW YORK STATE YEAR LIST: MY FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY ODYSSEY**

**ROBERT CONNOR**

Early in 1992 during a telephone conversation with Richard Guthrie, I mentioned that on 22 July I would celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of my first day of birding, and I thought that I ought to do something special to commemorate the occasion. Guthrie suggested trying to see 300 species in New York State in one year. I countered that sounded like more than I could handle. It can be done, he said, and I responded that since my New York list was only 308 species, I would have to see almost every species I'd ever seen in the State to do it. He said to think about it and I said I would, noting to myself that it was highly unlikely. But when Stan Lincoln called in mid February to tell me about a Lark Sparrow just across the river, I went the next morning to find it. "Just in case," I told myself. I did much more birding than usual in the first half of the year but more in the line of celebrating the anniversary than in believing I could find 300 species in a year. I wasn't convinced I could do it until the end of June when my tally showed 253. Blanks on my checklist showed me what I needed and what I had to do to get them.

Blanks on the checklist also showed me the first rule in going for a big year: start on 1 January, not 1 July! During the spring I had missed several species that appeared at Jamaica Bay because I had waited several days before going after them. By the time I got there they had left. One species, a Ruff, spent several days at the refuge and was seen on the morning I got there, but earlier, and it wasn't seen again. After 30 June when I heard about a bird, I left to find it the next morning, if not the same day. Thus, the summer was spent traveling around the state to fill the blanks on my checklist. To Watertown for White-winged Tern, to Ithaca for Dickcissel, to Long Island for Black Skimmer and the salt-marsh sparrows, to Rochester for Clay-colored Sparrow, and repeatedly to Cedar Beach on Long Island for missing sandpipers.

Another must is to establish a statewide network of birders who quickly pass the news of needed species and who will relay the information to you. Almost all birders will help in whatever way they can. Bill Lee and Andy Baldelli, the most frequent callers, invested a considerable amount of time and added significantly to their phone bills with numerous long distance calls, never hesitating to get me early advice on possible additions to my list. I've known Bill for many years, but I met Andy at Cedar Beach while searching for a Rufous-necked

Stint. He told me that he had seen it, just a few days earlier, on the exact spot that he was standing. I asked him to step aside if he was still standing on it so I could add it to my list. I also chastised him for seeing, at his young age, a bird that I had never seen in 50 years of active birding! From that casual meeting came my best advisor! He'd call with weekly reports even noting when necessary that there was nothing around worth reporting. Most birders were like that. Only a very few are not interested in another's birding adventures and decline to proffer information on what's about. I make that comment not in complaint but rather in wonderment that so many birders are so willing to be of help.

Two more necessities are a car in good condition and a mind and body in reasonable condition. In January, I had a problem in my car that ended with a new starter, battery and alternator and the alternator trouble light *still* shining. Every time I left home, particularly on the 1000+ mile trips, I wondered if my car would make it and hoped, fervently, that if the breakdown was to come it would be on the way home after seeing the bird I was seeking. My car now has 141,000 miles, including the more than 25,000 birding miles added in 1992, and is still chugging along...with the alternator light still lit!

Body condition is another thing. My task would have been a lot easier, and probably somewhat more successful, if I had done it thirty years ago when my hearing (particularly), eyesight and general stamina were in better shape.

Another problem is that this endeavor took a lot of time and demanded instant availability. I'm retired so that wasn't a problem but thirty years ago it would have been. For a younger aspirant you need either to be an heir or an heiress to a year's sustenance and transportation or a salesperson with a New York State territory.

Attitude is equally important. I spent uncounted hours alone in my car. If you can't amuse yourself, don't even try this without a constant companion. For many of my downstate trips I birded with Mike Lolya, who added a lot of comfort (and good hearing) to those trips. Unfortunately, Mike couldn't always come so there were trips taken alone, including some as long as five days, with only myself to talk to. Those who know my radical views on almost everything probably think that leaving me to talk to myself for even a day, much less five, is indeed dangerous to the world!

There's yet another rule to mention. Don't wait for the last days of the year to finish up. I planned a trip to the St. Lawrence River for two days and then to Montauk for the last week of the year. I was immobilized in Albany by an ice storm so I headed to Long Island for the year's end. I was foiled again. Rain and fog covered the island for



the last days of the year. But the fog lifted late in the afternoon of 31 December and I added Eared Grebe to the list. With that species my fiftieth year list was at 306! I saw 21 speices in New York State for the first time (Table 1), two of which also were first State records. The magic number of 300 had been reached on October 29 with a Gray Kingbird, a vagrant visitor to Rennselear County. I was tipped off to it by a call from Rich Guthrie. Thus the goal had been reached with the help of the same person who had suggested the quest. But of my total list, only ten species were added in the last quarter of the year (Table 2).

I'm very content that I did it. It took a lot of time, too much of it lonely driving. It took a lot of money. At times it took too much energy. One night having just driven four hours from Endicott through driving rain and at the end of a 1500 mile, four day grind, my wife greeted me with "you just missed Bill Lee, he called ten minutes ago." My response was that if he was calling about a bird, it had better be one in our back yard believing that was as far as I could get without a few days rest. Fortunately, it was a White-winged Tern advisory and one of the stops that I had just made. Bill had called so many friends about it he forgot that he had called me several days earlier!

There are regrets about missed birds. I spent a dozen hours or more poking along Adirondack roads listening for a Northern Saw-whet Owl. And my approximate count was 36 hours at Moose River Plains and at the Nature Conservancy's Kendall property looking for a Spruce Grouse. Least Bittern, I discovered too late, was nesting along the Hudson River not 30 miles from home! I went for a singing Kentucky Warbler in Westchester County just days after it had stopped singing. I missed perhaps fifteen species seen by others during the year in New York, some not for lack of trying, some by finding out about them too late, and some because they just passed by in migration and didn't stay long enough for me to hear about. I missed a visiting American White Pelican at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge by one day!

But, I now believe that 320 species could be found in this State in a year. All it would take is inexhaustible dedication, time and money, following the advice above, and, as with me, a lot of good luck.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As in most birding articles some credits are due. First of all some family tributes. Like a very understanding and helpful wife. She is not birder and those who are married to non-birders know what that means. At least I was a birder a decade before we were married so she knew what she was in for. A son's house in Albany and a daughter's in

Geneva provided lodging on many nights upstate. Richard Guthrie, of course, has to be mentioned, since his call started the whole thing. But I screamed at him when I found out that he had neglected to tell me about a Yellow-headed Blackbird but had convinced me to bird out of state for a day to get a life Boreal Owl. Stan Lincoln continued to help and on one occasion found a coin phone to call me from Staten Island and tell me about the State's first Roseate Spoonbill. In addition to those mentioned above and earlier, Charlie Rouse from Geneva and Ed Treacy from Orange County helped out, and Gary Lee from Hamilton County was vital to my Adirondack list. Trips to Letchworth State Park, the Adirondacks, and Niagara Falls with the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club added numerous species. Long Island was essential and there Manny Levine helped out time and again. He promised Seaside Sparrow in return for this article but visits to known sites such as the Oceanside Nature Preserve and Cow Meadow Park in Freeport were unproductive. However, the trip did produce my only Gull-billed Tern for the year. I found Seaside Sparrow later and Manny, as is obvious, got the article anyway.

*29 Pride's Crossing, New City, New York 10956*

**Table 1. Additions To My New York State List in 1992.**

Eared Grebe	Pomarine Jaeger
Brown Pelican	White-winged Tern
Roseate Spoonbill	Gull-billed Tern
Tufted Duck	Acadian Flycatcher
Black Vulture	Gray Kingbird
Yellow Rail	Gray Jay
King Rail	Protonotary Warbler
Spotted Redshank	Summer Tanager
Red-necked Phalarope	Lark Sparrow
Red Phalarope	Western Meadowlark
Parasitic Jaeger	

**Table 2. 1992 Fourth Quarter Additions**

Eared Grebe	Purple Sandpiper
Tundra Swan	Barn Owl
Yellow Rail	Great Horned Owl
King Rail	Gray Kingbird
Spotted Redshank	American Pipit
Hudsonian Godwit	Lapland Longspur

## AVIAN PREDATOR VISITS TO FEEDING AND BANDING STATIONS

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

It has become clear to me that predators and, in particular, avian predators make regular and frequent visits to feeding and banding stations. As a bander and having maintained to some extent bird feeding stations the year around for about 35 years, I have experienced many visits from avian predators and can almost predict when to look for such a "visitor" based on the weather conditions.

I have observed the following species of avian predator at my particular location:

Northern Harrier: on about two occasions, during long hard winter conditions when deep snows limited food availability.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: almost on a year around basis and almost on a two to three day schedule the summer and fall 1993.

Cooper's Hawk: not as frequent as Sharp-shinned Hawk in summer or fall but much more common during the winter months in my area. Sometimes seen in pairs. This species and the previous species have been observed walking on the ground hunting for birds hiding under feeding tables and platforms.

Northern Goshawk: infrequent and only in the most severe winters, usually immature birds.

Red-tailed Hawk: only during severe winter conditions when snow cover is deep.

American Kestrel: usually in winter or early spring. Some years ago I observed a small male which consistently attacked and killed male Evening Grosbeak at my feeder, quite a feat since Evening Grosbeak will bite viciously while being banded.

Merlin: occasional in the early fall and early spring while passing through in migration. Their high speed maneuvering in hot pursuit of a House Finch or other species is most interesting to watch.

Eastern Screech-Owl: one winter an individual attempted to catch House Sparrow without success.

Northern Shrike: regular winter visitor when they are are numerous locally. They particularly attack birds in banding traps and will kill and pull birds through the wire mesh of the trap. On two occasions, they even left a regurgitated pellet of bird and small mammal parts after feeding. They also will take *Microtus* that are attracted to waste seed and at times vole travel tunnels can be very visible if you shovel out the snow under your feeders.

Winter is the best time to look for visits by these species. Visibility for observing an act of predation is also optimal because the leaves are gone and snow covers the ground. Bad weather, such as approaching snow storms, often seems to trigger a visit.

Food sources at this time of year are limited for avian predators, so flocks of passerine birds make good targets of opportunity, all the more because they are less wary and are concentrated at feeding stations. In my experience the prey species most apt to be taken are the species present in greatest numbers at a feeding station, such as House Finch, American Tree Sparrow, House Sparrow, American Goldfinch, and European Starling. In a year with a winter finch invasion, Common Redpoll can be the main prey item. The Mourning Dove seems to be an exception. By spring, no matter how many or few visit the station, about one half have been captured, primarily by accipiters. I have never observed Black-capped Chickadee to be preyed upon and I have even seen them land with complete disregard on a branch next to both Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks. Chickadees do react to the presence of Northern Shrike and depart for cover with the other birds when one appears.

Many times the only proof of a kill is a group of feathers found on the snow and or a few drops of blood here and there. Accipiters will often leave the crop and some attached intestines with a blood circle marking the spot where a larger bird such as a Mourning Dove or European Starling had been the prey item but could not be carried off any distance. A few feathers blowing across the snow will give you a clue that one of your feeder visitors has been taken.

I am sure that the loss at feeding and banding stations will not cause problems to the population of a particular species. I do believe the loss is much greater than one would guess from visual sightings. Annually I notice an average loss of about eight individual birds to avian predators. I suspect that the actual loss may be three to four times this number, and perhaps more.

I have also found that the avian predators attracted to my feeding activities may become a casualty from collision with windows, etc., while in pursuit of prey. I also have found avian predators in a starved and weakened condition which results in their death from the cold and freezing weather. These birds usually are young of the year, that perhaps have not fully learned how to capture prey and have been drawn to a feeder seeking food among the many visitors.

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## STATUS OF NORTHERN HARRIER IN THE CHAMPLAIN VALLEY OF CLINTON COUNTY, NEW YORK

MARK GRETCH

In New York State the Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) is classified as a threatened species. Therefore, there is a continuing need to monitor both its distribution and abundance. The results of The New York State Breeding Bird Atlas Project (1980-1986) provided good baseline data which permit us to detect changes in distribution with time. During the spring and summer of 1993 I conducted field surveys of rare birds, including the Northern Harrier, for the New York Natural Heritage Program. I made 49 trips into the Champlain Valley of Clinton County, looking for evidence of breeding Northern Harrier and other rare birds. Coverage was extensive, including approximately 3500 miles by car. This paper discusses some trends in Northern Harrier distribution.

Smith (1988) states that "comparisons of Atlas data with historical data suggest its current distribution is more fragmented." This seems to be true for the state as a whole, and for Clinton County as well. Northern Harrier is not distributed uniformly throughout the Champlain Valley of Clinton County. It shows definite preferences for certain portions of the Champlain Valley. I refer to these areas as "clusters," meaning concentrations of sightings that I made during 1993 (Fig. 1).

A total of 32 individual sightings of this species were made during the period. The largest number of sightings (21, or 66%) were concentrated in an area that I call the Chazy Rivers cluster. This cluster is bordered on the east by Lake Champlain and its adjacent wetlands, on the north by the Great Chazy River, on the west by the VLY (an extensive swamp) and Lake Alice Game Management Area, and on the south by the Little Chazy River. Another smaller cluster occurs in the area surrounding Monty Bay State Wildlife Management Area and Riley Brook. The Monty Bay cluster produced 22% of the sightings. The third cluster, 12% of the sightings, came from the Ausable Game Management Area and the Little Ausable River region. These formed the Ausable cluster.

All three clusters are centered in major wetland areas that are protected by New York State as either State Game or Wildlife Management Areas. All three clusters also are within agricultural regions. The affinity of Northern Harrier to each of the clusters depends on the confluence of both wetland and open agricultural spaces.



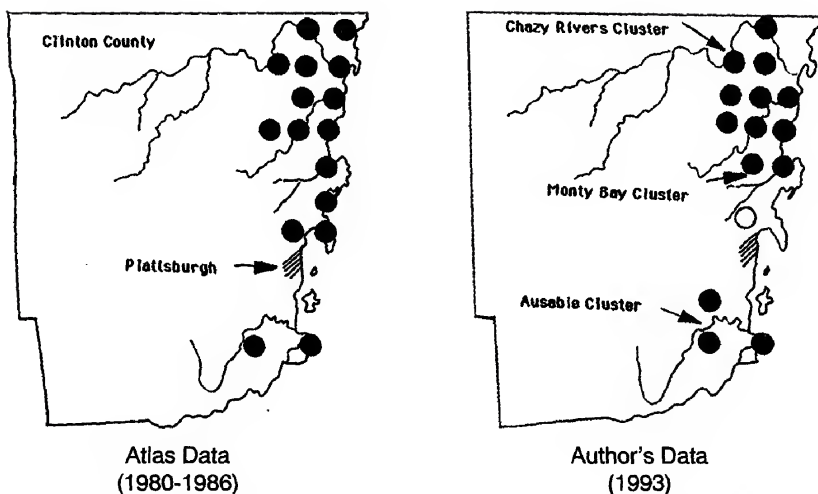


Figure 1. Changes in the distribution of Northern Harrier in the Champlain Valley of Clinton County, Atlas data (Smith 1988) left, 1993 data right. Closed circles designate Atlas blocks that contained Northern Harrier (left) or observations by the author (right). Open circle designates confirmed sightings by other during the 1993 season.

Agricultural areas alone may not be sufficient to attract breeding Northern Harrier. There was a noticeable absence of harriers in some of the more upland agricultural areas, especially those with large consolidated cultivated fields, lacking hedge rows and scattered wood lots. The ideal habitat type was a mix of protected wetlands for nesting, surrounded by open agricultural land for hunting. It was my impression that the increased edge, provided by a mix of woodland and open area provided a better mix of hunting opportunities and cover than did large consolidated agricultural fields.

There was a noticeable absence of harrier sightings in the area surrounding the city of Plattsburgh. A comparison of the author's data, with that of the Atlas data (Fig. 1) suggests that, if anything, the gap in the harrier distribution around Plattsburgh is getting larger. Within the last 10 or so years, there has been more residential development north of Plattsburgh, in the vicinity of Cumberland Head. Also, Point Au Roche State Park to the north of Cumberland Head is a new State Park that has attracted many more tourists to this region. The naturalist at Point Au Roche State Park did not observe harriers there during the 1993 season. This further confirms the impression that this area has undergone

changes that have negatively impacted harrier distribution. The author questioned others about the presence of harriers in the Cumberland Head region, and received only one confirmed sighting to the west of Cumberland Head (Fig. 1). This expanding area of human disturbance might explain the widening gap in the Northern Harrier distribution to the north of Plattsburgh. With this exception however, the distribution of harriers I observed is very similar to that reported by Smith (1988).

Little data are available on the area utilized by nonbreeding harriers (Serrentino 1992). It must be assumed that the hunting range varies with availability and abundance of prey species, habitat type and other factors. The author repeatedly watched three immature harriers hunting over an area measuring 1.2 miles by about 2 miles, or about 2.5 miles<sup>2</sup> (6.455 km<sup>2</sup>). This was an open agricultural area in the Chazy Rivers cluster adjacent to Lake Champlain. This open habitat type was mostly fields of clover or alfalfa alternating with fields of corn. There was scarce hedgerow cover, and only a few patches of woods along the periphery of the hunting area.

Eventually, the Atlas project will be repeated in New York State. In the interim, however, monitoring trends in the distribution and abundance of species, especially those that are Endangered, Threatened, or of Special Concern, is valuable. The New York Natural Heritage Program is helping this effort by continuing to monitor the distribution and abundance of many species of wildlife.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS



Figure 1. Dark-eyed Junco with white cheek patches, Wadhams, Essex Co., New York. Photograph by Dean Spaulding.

**A White-cheeked Dark-eyed Junco:** I often ignore Dark-eyed Junco as a species. They pass through on their way north each spring, stopping for a few days at my feeder outside of Wadhams, New York, in the Adirondacks, and then pass back through by my way in the fall. For whatever reason, the spring of 1994 became one big junco count. I'd sit at my window and keep an informal count. With a little observation, it isn't difficult to see the different waves of junco come into the feeder during migration. One day I would count two or three, the next thirty, forty, fifty. Then, a few days later it would be back to just a few. One morning, I looked out my window to find a welcome surprise. I counted only one junco, but this junco was unlike any other I had ever seen or probably will ever see again. This junco had white cheek patches (Fig. 1). The Slate-colored races of Dark-eyed Junco are often described as appearing as though they had been hand dipped in chlorox, meaning that their undersides are white and not slate-colored like the rest of their body. This particular junco appeared as though someone had gotten a little sloppy with the chlorox bottle and dribbled some across the little bird's head. As I watched "white cheeks" join other juncos, I told myself that I was seeing some type of strange pigmentation. Continuing to watch, I noticed that the white-cheeked junco stayed by itself, as though

it was weary of the others busily working the freshly racked soil under my feeder with their "junco shuffle:" a one, two, three step shuffle where they dig in with both feet, jump back on the next, before hopping back up to where they had started, only to dig their feet in again. I thought that perhaps his white "birthmark" alienated him from the others, but I found this to be untrue. In fact, he used his white-cheeks as a factitious power symbol, puffing them up as he approached female juncos and using them to scare off the older and darker adult males when he had scratched up all the area around him. The white-cheeked Dark-eyed Junco stayed around my feeder for two days from 14 to 16 May before moving on to its next stop. In that time, I managed to sneak down into the cellar when he was feeding and snap a few eye-level pictures of him, so, like the odd junco that showed up at my place, I too wouldn't be accused of getting too close to an opened bottle of chlorox.

*Dean T. Spaulding, RR#2, Box 2080, Westport, New York 12993*

**Aberrant Common Redpoll in Cortland County:** The great redpoll invasion of the winter of 1993-94 heightened many a birder's hopes that this would finally be the year that Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*) would be added to their life list. Thus, a report that such a bird was at a feeder in the Town of Virgil, Cortland County, seemed highly believable. The authors separately visited that feeder on 14 and 15 January 1994. Both of us quickly found the target bird, consorting with a flock of up to forty Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*), and we were able to study it at close range, at leisure and at length. The bird immediately commanded our attention by its most striking feature, a pure white head with no other obvious markings except for a flame-red forehead patch; closer examination revealed a few very small rose-colored feathers on the cheek. Most odd was its complete lack of the expected black chin. The effect was that of a bird with a white hood. The bill was striking too: a brilliant orange-yellow, quite in contrast to the dull tone of a Common Redpoll's bill; it had no black edging on the culmen and gonyes as shown by the other redpolls. The bird appeared to have unstreaked undertail coverts and rump. However, there were strong brown lateral streaks along each flank, and the wing and back pattern seemed similar to that of the attendant redpolls. The rump was suffused with light rose, and at least one feather had a dark spot near the shaft. A strong rosy-colored collar extended in an inverted U-shape from the flanks and across the chest. An abnormal spot of white, present on the distal end of one of the left primaries, was not matched by the equivalent feather of the right wing.



After some discussion, we agreed that the bird probably was an aberrant Common Redpoll, although we differed on the relative importance of features that led to that decision. For one of us, the size and structure of the bill, indistinguishable in comparison to the other redpolls present, was the first clue that the bird probably wasn't a Hoary Redpoll: the latter typically has a noticeably smaller, stubbier bill, giving the face a "pushed-in" appearance. However, according to A. G. Knox (1988. The Taxonomy of Redpolls. *Ardea* 76 1-26.), *hornemanni* bill sizes show complete inclusion within the range of *flammea*, although the mean is smaller. For the other, the strong streaking on the flanks and back, as well as the rose color on the chest and rump, were the most inconsistent features. Whatever the case, it was certainly a striking bird. It was easy to see why the owners of the feeder felt that they had seen a Hoary Redpoll. One wishes that true Hoary Redpolls were as easy to pick out of a flock of Commons as this bird was!

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

The fall of 1994 brought generally uniform weather across the whole State. Very pleasant weather prevailed for most of the season. Temperatures after the first week of September ran from about average to well above average until the last week of the season. November saw average temperatures 4°F or more above normal in many Regions and 12.5°F above average in Region 4! Total monthly precipitation was average or slightly below in September and November in most Regions and well below normal, typically a third to half the norm, in October. First frosts generally occurred toward the middle of October upstate, and the first snowfall in many Regions was the latest ever, occurring on 22 or 23 Nov. Much of the rainfall that fell came in bursts, and there were few major frontal systems. Hurricane Gordon, threatening 18-20 Nov, produced little in terms of weather or birds.

The flat weather brought generally poor birding conditions, with few groundings of migrating birds. There were good night flights on 14-15 Sep in Region 1 and on 30 Sep in Region 3, plus some good banding reports for Regions 1, 3, and 7. Notes of good numbers tallied in Regions 8 and 9 all suggest that many migrants simply overflowed the State during the many clear nights. Still, for the typical birder in most Regions, this was a poor fall season, the poorest in memory to some. Negative notes for various families and species abound. A few new high counts, some early and late dates, and the rarities provide the bright spots for the season's reports. Excellent nut, cone, and berry crops noted in several Regional reports provide some hope that winter will bring some interesting half-hardy and vagrant records.

This season's summary of major groups starts at sea off Region 10. The sole pelagic trip produced counts typical of recent years, with an *Audubon's Shearwater* and over 500 Greater Shearwaters plus a Yellow-breasted Chat as a bonus "seabird." Ashore, upstate, there are new, regularly staffed water bird watches in Region 2 on Lake Ontario and Region 3 on Cayuga Lake. There, loon, grebe, and waterfowl flights tended toward late arrival and lower counts for divers, although a record one day count of Red-throated Loon was recorded in Region 2 and the Common Loon total approached 6000 for the season in Region 3. In Region 8, a pair of Common Loon with two chicks on 15 Sep ties the State record late date. All across the state, water bird peaks seemed generally low. However, there were a number of highlights. Red-necked

Grebe was noted in all Regions reporting, with a Regional record early arrival on 11 Sep in Region 2. Double-crested Cormorant maxima were generally reduced, perhaps reflecting the nesting failure on Lake Ontario, but nests with juvenile birds were noted in Region 1 for a first successful Regional nesting. Great Cormorant penetrated inland to the confluence of the Hudson and Mohawk rivers in Region 8. Heron notes of particular interest were few, but several Regions reported good Great Egret totals. Waterfowl trends across the state mirrored the generally lackluster results from water bird watches. Interesting records include neck-banded Snow Geese in Region 7; a new Brant peak count in Region 8 shattering the former Regional max; two *Ross's Goose* reports, including a first New York report of the very rare blue morph in Region 9; another very high Wood Duck peak in Region 5; Eurasian Wigeon in Regions 1, 3, 4, and 10; *Common Eider* inland in Regions 1 and 2; scoters widely reported; and Barrow's Goldeneye in Regions 7 and 8.

Hawk watch results are summarized from the usual fall watches in Regions 3, 4, 9, and 10. In Region 3, the usual movements were delayed or missing. The Franklin Mt. Hawk Watch in Region 4 was just a bit off from last year's high for their six years of operation. Region 9 provides tables for their four major watches and Region 10 noted a general drop in peak counts at the beach watches, with noteworthy peaks and totals cited. Turkey Vulture continues to increase all across the State, including now Region 10, and to linger later, with five Regions noting birds into November. *Black Vulture* sightings increased to over 35 reports in Region 9. All Regions also noted Bald Eagle, with numbers particularly good in Region 10. Accipiter reports were generally down a bit, as were Broad-winged Hawk totals at inland watches. Few Rough-legged Hawk had moved into the State by season's end. Golden Eagle reports were up, with birds reported from six Regions and the Franklin Mt. Hawk Watch surpassed a 100 bird total once again. Merlin and Peregrine Falcon were well reported, with the latter in seven of the nine Regions reporting this Fall and with a couple of birds roosting on the Irondequoit Bay Bridge through the season in Region 2, a future nesting site? Rarities included *Mississippi Kite* and *Swainson's Hawk*, both at Region 9 hawk watches, and *Gyr Falcon* at Franklin Mountain.

Sandhill Crane reports continue to increase, with two noted in both Regions 3 and 5 and a single in Region 9. Shorebird reports were generally poor both for species and counts. The Region 3 report has the best summary from regular visits to census Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge shorebird areas. Notable shorebird reports include American Avocet in Regions 1 and 10; a first Regional Willet in Region 4;

a very rare *Long-billed Curlew* from Region 10; Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Regions 1, 2, 3, and 10; a Ruff in Region 7; and very poor dowitcher totals, though Region 1 had its first Long-billed since 1987.

Gulls and terns were similarly lackluster. The only widespread trend of note was the continued increase in Lesser Black-backed Gull reports, with over 25 birds noted from five Regions. The bulk of the unusual records came from Region 10, including: the lone Common Black-headed Gull report, Gull-billed Tern, Royal Tern into November, and both a good late count and a very late date for Forster's Tern. Upstate, Sabine's Gull was found again on the Niagara River, but otherwise typical concentrations had not assembled by the season's end. Jaegers were noted at the usual locations in Regions 2 and 5 on Lake Ontario, and from Region 10.

Owls provided the usual scattering of reports, a single Barn Owl in Region 2, very few Snowy Owl reports including a State record early arrival on 17 Oct in Region 2, and Short-eared Owl flagged decreasing in Region 10 most notable. Common Nighthawk numbers ran a bit lower than even the meager peaks of recent years. *Rufous Hummingbird* brought some added excitement to Region 8 birders. The bird was finally netted and transported to a more suitable winter location in early December. Woodpeckers were sparsely reported as is typical and low counts for Red-headed Woodpecker at the edges of its range and a flag for Red-bellied Woodpecker in Region 4 were two possible trends worth watching.

Finally we come to the huge order Passeriformes. In most family and subfamily groupings, there are too few entries to see long term trends. However, for the season the general picture was one of scarcity. In a particularly warm fall, we saw a fair number of late departure dates, though the Departure Dates Table shows the overall average matching that of the past eight seasons of collecting the data carefully and 5 days early relative to the 1961-1986 baseline average. Probable reasons have been presented in these pages numerous fall reports over that period. Over all Regions reporting, only Great Crested Flycatcher departed earlier than average by a statistically significant margin. Within individual Regions, you may find the lists of species missed this Fall as long or longer than the tardy departures. This aspect of the migration is not included in the averages. In spite of the complaints of scarcity and in addition to the general picture, we have, as usual, many interesting notes and observations. There were good birding days in late September and banding operations did have good days or even seasons, as summarized in the Region 1, 3, and 7 reports. This season also produced

## Fall Departures

1994

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average
Osprey	29 Oct	27 Oct	22 Oct	19 Nov	3 Nov		9 Oct	6 Nov	26 Oct	3 Nov	29 Oct
Broad-winged Hawk		19 Aug		28 Nov	1 Oct		21 Sep	19 Sep	8 Oct	30 Sep	30 Sep
Black-bellied Plover	30 Oct	7 Oct	15 Oct		20 Nov		21 Sep	17 Sep	10 Nov		17 Oct
Semipalmated Plover	16 Oct	17 Oct	7 Oct		6 Nov		8 Sep	4 Sep	31 Oct	16 Oct	9 Oct
Greater Yellowlegs	29 Oct	5 Nov	29 Oct		12 Oct		24 Oct	30 Oct	10 Nov		28 Oct
Lesser Yellowlegs	30 Oct	15 Oct	29 Oct		22 Sep		8 Nov	1 Oct	2 Oct		15 Oct
Spotted Sandpiper	29 Sep	16 Sep	9 Oct	11 Sep	23 Oct		29 Sep	23 Oct	3 Oct	17 Sep	1 Oct
Sanderling	9 Oct	9 Oct	4 Sep		22 Oct		12 Aug				23 Sep
Semipalmated Sandpiper	22 Aug	16 Oct	24 Sep		18 Sep		22 Aug		13 Oct	17 Sep	18 Sep
Least Sandpiper	16 Oct	8 Sep	15 Oct		18 Sep		15 Sep	1 Oct	17 Oct		30 Sep
Pectoral Sandpiper	30 Oct	29 Oct	29 Oct		2 Oct		30 Sep	1 Nov	15 Nov	18 Oct	23 Oct
Caspian Tern	2 Oct	2 Oct	2 Oct		28 Sep						1 Oct
Common Tern	30 Oct	8 Oct			2 Nov		7 Jul		1 Oct	23 Nov	6 Oct
Black Tern	31 Aug	26 Aug			29 Aug		15 Aug			17 Sep	29 Aug
Chimney Swift	18 Sep	6 Sep	24 Sep	1 Sep	8 Sep		15 Jul	17 Sep	12 Oct	9 Oct	12 Sep
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	20 Sep	30 Sep	15 Oct	28 Sep	20 Sep		3 Oct	8 Oct	13 Oct	13 Sep	30 Sep
Eastern Wood-Pewee	9 Oct	14 Sep	30 Sep	2 Oct	1 Oct		13 Oct	29 Sep		15 Oct	2 Oct
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	31 Aug	12 Sep	20 Sep	18 Sep	29 Aug		8 Aug				4 Sep
Least Flycatcher	17 Sep	25 Sep	24 Sep	4 Sep	3 Sep		28 Sep	26 Sep		4 Sep	16 Sep
Eastern Phoebe	9 Oct	13 Oct	22 Oct	4 Nov	23 Oct		10 Oct	24 Oct	1 Nov	4 Nov	22 Oct
Great Crested Flycatcher	4 Sep	10 Sep	17 Sep	19 Aug	2 Sep		8 Sep				4 Sep
Eastern Kingbird	4 Sep	1 Sep	3 Sep	13 Sep	5 Sep		17 Oct	13 Sep			12 Sep
Tree Swallow	16 Oct	12 Nov	5 Nov	5 Sep	18 Sep		14 Sep	1 Oct	1 Nov		9 Oct
Barn Swallow	22 Oct	29 Oct	22 Oct	5 Sep	8 Sep		17 Sep	4 Sep	1 Oct		28 Sep
House Wren	9 Oct	7 Oct	7 Oct	7 Oct	6 Oct		17 Jul	23 Sep	19 Oct	3 Oct	27 Sep
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	3 Sep	14 Sep	11 Sep	7 Oct	9 Sep		31 Aug	9 Sep			11 Sep
Veery	15 Sep	17 Sep	11 Sep	25 Sep	12 Sep		31 Aug	11 Oct	21 Oct	3 Oct	22 Sep
Swainson's Thrush	13 Oct	7 Oct	30 Sep	12 Oct	17 Sep		5 Oct	17 Oct		7 Oct	6 Oct
Wood Thrush	26 Sep	10 Oct	15 Oct	16 Oct	21 Sep		16 Sep	5 Oct		22 Oct	5 Oct
Gray Catbird	30 Oct	27 Nov	11 Oct	15 Oct	23 Oct		12 Oct	19 Oct			24 Oct
Brown Thrasher	25 Oct	20 Oct	18 Sep	11 Sep	6 Oct		25 Sep	1 Oct	5 Oct	7 Oct	3 Oct



Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average
Solitary Vireo	16 Oct	14 Oct	13 Oct	12 Oct	22 Oct		10 Oct	16 Oct	18 Oct	13 Oct	14 Oct
Yellow-throated Vireo	15 Sep	10 Sep	11 Sep		11 Sep			9 Sep		28 Sep	14 Sep
Warbling Vireo	18 Sep	20 Sep	24 Sep	7 Sep	18 Sep		17 Sep	23 Sep		2 Sep	16 Sep
Red-eyed Vireo	9 Oct	6 Oct	2 Oct	1 Oct	10 Oct		18 Oct	9 Oct		13 Oct	8 Oct
Blue-winged Warbler	14 Sep	8 Sep	17 Sep	26 Sep	1 Sep		28 Aug	3 Sep	15 Sep	15 Sep	10 Sep
Tennessee Warbler	9 Oct	30 Sep	10 Oct	8 Oct	4 Oct		29 Sep	9 Oct	28 Sep	10 Sep	1 Oct
Nashville Warbler	9 Oct	11 Oct	4 Oct	8 Oct	8 Oct		10 Oct	9 Oct	22 Sep	10 Oct	6 Oct
Northern Parula	30 Sep	17 Sep	3 Oct	25 Sep	24 Sep		10 Oct	2 Oct	30 Sep	6 Oct	29 Sep
Yellow Warbler	22 Sep	8 Sep	6 Sep	2 Oct	11 Sep		28 Aug		20 Sep	21 Sep	14 Sep
Chestnut-sided Warbler	26 Sep	20 Sep	29 Sep	25 Sep	24 Sep		16 Sep	29 Sep	18 Sep	30 Sep	24 Sep
Magnolia Warbler	9 Oct	23 Oct	5 Oct	26 Sep	9 Oct		10 Oct	2 Oct	10 Oct	10 Oct	8 Oct
Cape May Warbler	9 Oct				16 Sep		30 Sep		26 Sep	6 Oct	29 Sep
Black-thr Blue Warbler	18 Oct	14 Oct	17 Oct	24 Sep	8 Oct		1 Oct	9 Oct	7 Oct	18 Oct	9 Oct
Black-thr Green Warbler	15 Nov	13 Oct	11 Oct	8 Oct	29 Oct		30 Sep	9 Oct	4 Oct	16 Oct	15 Oct
Blackburnian Warbler	21 Sep	30 Sep	22 Sep	23 Oct	18 Sep		5 Sep	29 Sep	25 Sep	20 Sep	24 Sep
Bay-breasted Warbler	9 Oct	30 Sep	24 Sep	26 Sep	18 Sep		7 Aug	18 Sep	3 Oct	7 Oct	22 Sep
Blackpoll Warbler	9 Oct	17 Sep	24 Sep	8 Oct	19 Sep		18 Sep	9 Oct	1 Oct	6 Oct	29 Sep
Black-and-white Warbler	9 Oct	27 Sep	25 Sep	4 Sep	24 Sep		3 Sep	29 Sep	28 Sep	7 Oct	24 Sep
American Redstart	4 Nov	10 Oct	30 Sep	22 Nov	25 Sep		6 Oct	2 Oct	1 Oct	9 Dec	19 Oct
Ovenbird	9 Oct	10 Oct	22 Sep	12 Oct	24 Sep		22 Sep	29 Sep	19 Sep	15 Sep	28 Sep
N. Waterthrush	22 Sep	16 Sep	20 Sep	11 Sep	5 Sep				21 Sep	24 Oct	21 Sep
Common Yellowthroat	9 Oct	22 Oct	20 Nov	17 Nov	15 Oct		17 Oct	12 Oct	16 Oct	24 Oct	23 Oct
Wilson's Warbler	1 Oct	13 Sep	30 Sep	26 Sep	20 Sep		25 Sep	2 Oct	15 Sep	3 Oct	25 Sep
Canada Warbler	26 Sep	29 Aug	25 Sep	14 Sep	17 Sep		12 Sep	7 Sep	17 Sep	12 Sep	14 Sep
Scarlet Tanager	2 Oct	22 Sep	5 Oct	16 Sep	24 Sep		25 Sep	2 Sep	5 Oct	6 Oct	25 Sep
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	26 Oct	26 Sep	2 Oct	10 Oct	5 Sep		2 Jul	23 Sep	2 Oct	3 Oct	20 Sep
Rufous-sided Towhee	30 Nov	16 Oct	6 Nov	15 Oct	24 Oct			3 Oct	16 Oct		24 Oct
Lincoln's Sparrow	11 Oct	29 Oct	20 Oct	19 Oct	22 Oct		8 Oct	9 Oct	25 Oct	3 Oct	16 Oct
White-crowned Sparrow	5 Nov	22 Oct	11 Nov	30 Oct	22 Oct		9 Oct	6 Nov	23 Oct	11 Nov	29 Oct
Bobolink	3 Sep	13 Aug	8 Sep	27 Aug	2 Sep			2 Oct		30 Sep	7 Sep
Northern Oriole	10 Sep	9 Sep	17 Sep	2 Oct	22 Aug		9 Aug	7 Sep	5 Nov	6 Oct	16 Sep

**Bold** Regional Record Late

*Italics* also isolated later report(s).



### Departure Dates Seasonality and Advance

Region	Species Reported	Seasonality (days)	Advance (days)
Region 1	61	-2.6	5.1
Region 2	61	-8.2	0.0
Region 3	58	-0.8	2.8
Region 4	49	2.4	1.6
Region 5	62	-9.9	-3.1
Region 6	0		
Region 7	57	-3.2	-14.5
Region 8	52	-2.4	-1.7
Region 9	46	-0.6	5.4
Region 10	48	-8.6	6.5

*Seasonality* measures the average difference (in days) between this year's departure dates and the long term average dates for the *same* Region. *Advance* measures the average difference between this year's departure dates in one Region and the departure dates averaged over all ten Regions. Negative values mean early.

an excellent collection of western and southern wanderers in coastal areas of Regions 9 and 10.

There were few reports for Olive-sided Flycatcher. Eastern Wood-Pewee was flagged as very low in Regions 3 and 4 but many Least Flycatchers were banded in Region 1. The best rarities were *Ash-throated Flycatcher* and *Fork-tailed Flycatcher* in Region 10. Common Raven reports continue good, especially in Regions 4, 8, and 9, with a maximum of 34 counted in the latter Region. A Boreal Chickadee returned on the last day of the season to the feeder in Region 9 where one (it?) wintered last year. Depressed Carolina Wren counts in all Regions fulfilled our expectations following last winter's severity. It was a good fall for *Northern Wheatear*, with one in Region 4 and two in Region 10. Thrush counts were generally of low, excepting estimates from call notes overhead on excellent night flights from Regions 1 and 3, and a record high count of Wood Thrush found in one valley in Region 5 on 5 Sep. The only Bohemian Waxwing reported was in Region 7, where it has been found 14 of the past 16 years. Northern Shrike was noted in six regions, but in low numbers only.

Among the vireos, only Regions 3 and 4, reporting nearly all species, provided many entries; most entries were notes of scarcity, except for fairly good numbers for Philadelphia Vireo and a rare White-eyed Vireo banded in Region 4. Warbler highlights include a record late date for Yellow Warbler in Region 3; record late inland dates for Black-throated

Green Warbler in Regions 1 and 3; over 16 Orange-crowned Warbler reports from six Regions; above average numbers of reports for Pine and Prairie Warblers, the latter including Region 7 where they are rare anytime; very few Black-and-white Warbler reported; American Redstart late inland in Region 4 and late coastally in Region 10; nine Connecticut Warbler reports from six Regions; above average Mourning Warbler numbers; and Yellow-breasted Chat in Regions 4 and 10.

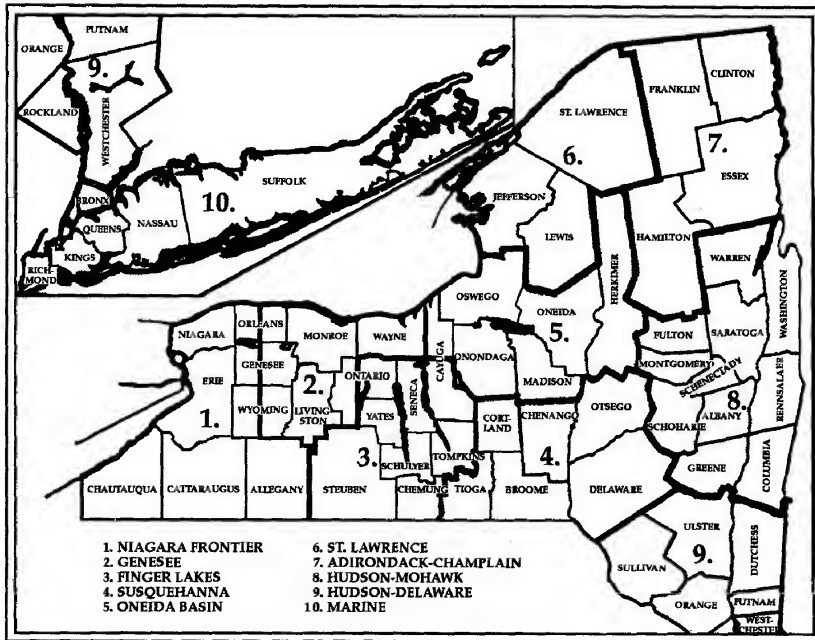
Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Indigo Bunting were all poorly reported, the latter scoring a first fall zero in Region 4. Sparrows also were reported in generally poor numbers. Highlights were to be found in the good showing of western and other vagrants, mainly in Regions 9 and 10 where many of these species are nearly annual. The best of the records include Dickcissel in Region 3, Blue Grosbeak, Clay-colored Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, and *Harris's Sparrow* in Region 9; and *Lark Bunting*, Blue Grosbeak, Dickcissel, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Lark Sparrow in Region 10. Snow Bunting was noted in eight of the nine Regions reporting, with particularly good counts from Regions 1 and 10. The only blackbird report of note was a *Bullock's Northern Oriole* in Region 10. Finally, the winter finch flight was very sparse, though all species but Hoary Redpoll were noted as at least singles in at least one Region.

Most of the rarities for the season already have been woven into this summary. The one left out to this point is my selection for the B.O.T.S Award, the State's first report for *Ancient Murrelet* in Region 2, then refound in nearby Ontario, whence it must have passed through Region 1 en route.

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**Standard abbreviations:** Regional rarities appear in *bold italics*; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. **In species accounts:** number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! — details seen by Regional Editor; ad — adult; Alt — Alternate plumage; Am. — American; arr — arrival or first of season; Com. — Common; E. — Eastern; FL — fledgling; I — Island; imm — immature; *intro* — see introduction to report; juv — juvenile; L — Lake; max — maximum; mob — multiple observers; N. — Northern; NWR — National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC — report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P — Park; Pd — Pond; ph — photographed; Pt — Point; Res — Reservoir; SP — State Park; spm — specimen; subad — subadult; T — Town of; Twn — township; W. — Western; WMA — Wildlife Management Area; y — young.

## REPORTING REGIONS



Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, *except at*:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties: the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia, NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19 from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County: the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64 from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21 from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County: the boundary is NY Route 31.

## REPORTING DEADLINES

**Winter Season:** December, January, February  
Deadline is 7 March

**Spring Season:** March, April, May  
Deadline is 7 June

**Summer Season:** June, July, August  
Deadline is 7 September

**Fall Season:** September, October, November  
Deadline is 7 December

## REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

WILLIAM C. D'ANNA

The weather of this fall season was pleasant across the Region. At Buffalo it was the warmest in 17 years, the driest in ten, and the sunniest in 30 years. Besides good weather, the birds had plenty of food. Vivian Pitzrick in ALLE noted good crops of acorns, hickory nuts, cones, cherry, multiflora rose, and dogwood fruits. Similar bounty was found in NIAG. September was one of the driest on record until the skies opened up the last week of the month and brought the rainfall total to near average. Temperatures were exactly average and with relatively little variation. October was Buffalo's sunniest in 30 years and also was dry, its 1.87 inches of rain 1.22 inches below normal. Temperatures averaged a degree above normal. The first frost at Buffalo was on 11 Oct while, inland at Amity Lake ALLE, it came on 3 Oct, late for both areas. November was the warmest in 19 years, 4.5°F above normal. Precipitation was about average. Buffalo did not receive its first snow of the season until the 22 Oct, setting a record for the latest ever. Gulls, particularly Bonaparte's, were late in building on the Niagara River. However, by the end of November numbers of Bonaparte's Gull were the highest since 1990. Only one Sabine's Gull was found this year. A species which may be in trouble, Franklin's Gull, was reported only once. Lesser Black-backed Gull was the most frequently seen of the uncommon gull species. A fierce windstorm on 28 Nov produced a Black-legged Kittiwake.

After several attempts at nesting on the Niagara River at Buckhorn Island SP (as many as 46 nests this May), Double-crested Cormorant was finally successful, a Regional first. But the successful nests were at a different location. Bill Watson found several nests and three juvenile cormorants on the lighthouse in Buffalo Harbor on the late date of 18 Sep.

September generally was not a good month for observing neotropical migrants. However, from 1:00 to 2:00 AM on 15 Sep, Patrick O'Donnell heard more migrants over his house in Niagara Falls than ever before. Then, during the daylight hours he found Goat Island NIAG alive with neotropical migrants, especially warblers. On the same day, Elizabeth Brooks netted 80 birds, including 15 warbler species, at her banding station in Alfred, her second best day in 17 autumns. Magnolia Warbler was the most common migrant that day. The weather on 14 and 15 Sep

was cloudy, warm, and humid. A stationary front was just south of our Region and the birds had moved without northerly winds.

The 59th Annual B.O.S. October Bird Count was conducted on 9 Oct and compiled by Mike Hamilton, Gerry Rising, and Terry Yonker. The Region 1 portion of the data was separated by Gerry, who also provided the averages from the previous five years. A total of 76,597 birds of 141 species was recorded, which is a whopping 24% fewer individuals than average. Looking just at species that average over 100 individuals, we find only seven that were above average and 45 that were below. Among the many negatives were the waterfowl, which were down 39%. This group migrated very late this year, which partly explains its reduction. Species which were more than 25% below average were Green-winged Teal, American Black Duck, Mallard, American Wigeon, both scaup, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Bonaparte's Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, both kinglets, Am. Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Chipping, Field, Song, Swamp, White-throated, and White-crowned Sparrows, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, Am. Goldfinch, and House Sparrow. The toll last winter took on Carolina Wren was striking. Only Double-crested Cormorant and Common Grackle were more than 25% above average. Such an across the board drop, which includes both species that are known to be decreasing as well as those that are increasing, suggests that the windy weather and precipitation may have kept many birds, and perhaps some birders, under cover.

The Batavia Sewage Lagoons continued to host a good variety and an increasing number of ducks. A female *Common Eider* there was only the sixth in the Region in the last 90 years. Birders looking for the eider came across the the Region's first October and latest ever Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Although the staff at the facility welcomed the throngs of birders that arrived, a concern for liability prompted the city to prohibit vehicles. Birders on foot are still welcomed at this large and productive complex.

There were no real hotspots for shorebirds until October. During that month Stafford's Pond on the Oak Orchard WMA produced Long-billed Dowitcher, the first in the Region since 1987, some later than usual sightings, and numbers of both yellowlegs, Dunlin, and Pectoral Sandpiper.

The more notable sightings this fall include Greater White-fronted Goose, *American Avocet*, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Connecticut



Warbler. Winter finches were almost absent after last year's good showing.

**Contributors:** Mallery & Mary Adams, Robert Andrie, Tim Baird, Paul Benham, Robert Brock, Elizabeth Brooks, Bruce Chilton, David Cooper, Willie D'Anna, Mike Davids (MDd), Michael Davis, James Gregory, Tom Harper, Barbara Henderson, Paul Hess, Linda Holmes, Jeremy Keller, Walt Listman, Richard MacDonald, Mike Morgante, Catherine Mueller, Patrick O'Donnell, Raymond Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Frances Rew, Gerald Rising, Donald Roberson, Art Rosche, Olga Rosche, Bert Schweigert, Gail Seamans, Linda Seleen, William Seleen, David & Debra Suggs, Robert Sundell, Steve Taylor, Joe Thill, Michael Turisk, William Watson, Peter Yoerg

**Abbreviations:** BSL - Batavia Sewage Lagoons, GENE; BIP - Bird Island Pier on Niagara River, Buffalo; BOSOC - Buffalo Ornithological Society October Count, 9 Oct; INWR - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; NF - Niagara Falls; NPP - Niagara Power Project on Niagara River, Town of Lewiston; NR - Niagara River; TNP - Tiff Nature Preserve, Buffalo.

**Fall reports:** **Red-throated Loon:** arr 53 L Ontario NIAG 30 Oct (WD). **Com. Loon:** arr NF 18 Sep (MM); numbers below average. **Horned Grebe:** arr Buffalo 17 Sep (WD, BP). **Red-necked Grebe:** seven T Somerset 15 Oct (MM, ST), only report. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 842 NF 1 Sep (WW), about the same as last year; *intro*. **Least Bittern:** up to three TNP 3-24 Sep; last two BSL 9 Oct (WL). **Great Egret:** max ten INWR 9 Oct; last six INWR 16 Oct (MD). **Green Heron:** last three BOSOC. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** E Aurora 20 Sep (LH), rare away from Great Lakes and NR. **Tundra Swan:** arr seven T Westfield 25 Oct (BS), max only 29 INWR 25 Nov (WW). **Greater White-fronted Goose:** E Aurora and T Marilla 21-26 Oct (LH!), fourth autumn record. **Snow Goose:** arr Amity L ALLE 20 Oct (VP). **Canada Goose:** *hutchinsii* type T Ellery 14 Oct (RS!). **Wood Duck:** max 276 BOSOC, down 19%. **N. Shoveler:** record max 138 BOSOC, most at BSL. **Eurasian Wigeon:** E Aurora 6 Oct-30 Nov (LH!), missing toe, probable escape. **Canvasback:** arr BOSOC. **Redhead:** arr TNP 18 Sep (PY, BH). **Ring-necked Duck:** arr four BSL 1 Oct (WL, MDd); max 130 Lewiston Res NIAG 23 Oct. **Greater Scaup:** arr six BSL 29 Sep (WL). **Lesser Scaup:** arr five BOSOC. **Com. Eider:** female BSL 1-16 Oct (WL, MDd, WW!, D&DS!, MM!, WD!, GS!). **Oldsquaw:** arr T Somerset 22 Oct (WD). **Black Scoter:** arr six T Somerset 29 Oct (WD). **Surf Scoter:** arr three BIP 2 Oct (PY). **White-winged Scoter:** arr 40 T Wilson 19 Sep (WD). **Com. Goldeneye:** arr two BSL 5 Oct (WL). **Bufflehead:** female BSL 2 Oct, summering bird; arr T Ellery

15 Oct (RS). **Hooded Merganser**: max only 40 E Aurora 23 Nov (LH). **Red-breasted Merganser**: arr seven T Wilson 19 Sep (WD). **Ruddy Duck**: arr 15 BSL 29 Sep (WL); max 50 BSL 1-21 Oct.

**Bald Eagle**: only reports involved three ad INWR, T Dayton, NR-Lewiston and two imm Allegheny Res CATT. **Rough-legged Hawk**: arr T Yates & T Carlton 22 Oct; only other location three CATT (BS). **Merlin**: T Porter 3 Sep (WD!,BP), only report. **Peregrine Falcon**: banded imm Tonawanda WMA 3 Sep (MM!); Lewiston Res 17 Sep (WD!,BP); imm T Kiantone 29 Sep (RS!,WS); imm INWR 1 Oct (WW!); imm BSL 2 Oct (D&DS!); doing well. **Ring-necked Pheasant**: max 21 BOSOC, about average. **Ruffed Grouse**: max 27 BOSOC, slightly below average. **Wild Turkey**: max 161 BOSOC, average. **Com. Moorhen**: last INWR 22 Oct (WD). **Am. Coot**: max 1100 Mayville-Chaut L 25 Oct (RS); 426 INWR 26 Nov (WW); good counts though less than the peaks in the fifties. **Am. Golden-Plover**: last T Kiantone 3 Nov (RS). **Am. Avocet**: Chaut L - T Ellery 9 Oct (WS!, LS), tenth Regional record and first ever after Aug. **Red Knot**: two BSL 1 Oct (WL), rare inland; nine BOSOC; only reports. **Least Sandpiper**: three Oak Orchard WMA 22 Oct (WD!), late. **Stilt Sandpiper**: four Oak Orchard WMA 22 Oct (WD!), latest ever. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: T Clarence 3-5 Sep (LH, MM); one BSL 7 Oct (DC!), record late. **Long-billed Dowitcher**: Oak Orchard WMA 2-5 15 Oct (MM!), three 29 Oct (MM!), two 3 Nov (MT!); thirteenth Regional record, all have been between 27 Aug and 12 Nov. **Red-necked Phalarope**: BSL 1 Oct (WL, MDd), only report. **Franklin's Gull**: only report NR-Lewiston 6 Nov (RM!). **Little Gull**: only reports several NR in Nov. **Iceland Gull**: arr NPP 19 Nov (MM). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: arr NF 11 Nov (WD), max 12 NR 26 Nov; all ages reported. **Glaucous Gull**: arr two NPP 26 Nov (WD). **Great Black-backed Gull**: max 119 BOSOC, still increasing. **Black-legged Kittiwake**: one Peace Bridge 28 Nov (PY!). **Sabine's Gull**: NF 5 Nov (WD), only report. **Caspian Tern**: two Fort Niagara SP 2 Oct (MM), late. **Com. Tern**: last six 30 Oct BIP (MM). **Forster's Tern**: last Buffalo 27 Nov (WD!), very late.

**Short-eared Owl**: arr over L Ontario at Golden Hill SP 29 Oct (WD), only report. **Com. Nighthawk**: last six Buffalo 15 Sep (MD); few reports and low numbers. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one-two Fort Niagara SP to end of period.

**Least Flycatcher**: 16 banded T Alfred (EB), fall record for that station. **Barn Swallow**: Oak Orchard WMA 16 Oct (WD!), second latest ever. **Com. Raven**: T Ward 8 Oct (EB), only report. **Carolina Wren**: only one BOSOC, average 11. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: arr two FNSP & one Wilson-Tuscarora SP 18 Sep. **E. Bluebird**: max 199 BOSOC, average.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr T Alfred 15 Sep (EB); Four Mile Creek SP 25 Sep (WD); only reports. **Hermit Thrush:** arr three Golden Hill SP 2 Oct (MM). **Am. Pipit:** arr Lewiston Res 24 Sep (WD). **N. Shrike:** arr INWR 16 Oct (MD).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr Williamsville Glen ERIE 14 Sep (PY). **Orange-crowned Warbler:** three BOSOC, only report. **N. Parula:** arr Goat I NIAG 9 Sep (BP). **Black-throated Green Warbler:** E Aurora 13-15 Nov (LH!, JK, ph), record late. **Pine Warbler:** arr TNP 5 Sep (MM); two Fort Niagara SP 18 Sep (MM); one BOSOC; only reports. **Palm Warbler:** arr Goat I NIAG 9 Sep (BP); last five BOSOC. **Am. Redstart:** TNP 4 Nov (MD), late. **Connecticut Warbler:** Fort Niagara SP 5 Sep (WD). **Hooded Warbler:** last E Aurora 26 Sep (LH).

**Indigo Bunting:** last T Porter BOSOC. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr T Lewiston 9 Oct. **Chipping Sparrow:** last Buffalo 31 Oct (CM). **Vesper Sparrow:** one BOSOC, only report. **Savannah Sparrow:** last two T Dayton 23 Oct (BS). **Grasshopper Sparrow:** two T Clarence 3 Sep (MD), rarely found after Aug. **Fox Sparrow:** arr T Wheatfield 24 Oct (BP, WD). **Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr T Alfred 16 Sep (EB). **White-throated Sparrow:** arr nine 18 Sep ERIE & NIAG. **White-crowned Sparrow:** arr E Aurora 23 Sep (LH). **Lapland Longspur:** 18 T Porter 9 Oct (WD, BP), only report. **Snow Bunting:** arr BSL 17 Oct (WL); max 1000 T Yates 12 Nov (MM). **Rusty Blackbird:** arr T Ashford 18 Sep (BC). **Pine Siskin:** arr three ALLE BOSOC. **Am. Goldfinch:** 250+ T Dayton 13 Nov (BS), good count. **Evening Grosbeak:** two ALLE BOSOC, only report.

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## REGION 2 — GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

It was a warm fall. September's average temperature was above normal, and temperatures generally were quite stable. October was similar. November's average temperature was 45.8°F, over 5° above normal. The first half of the month saw only one day when the temperature dipped below freezing. September's precipitation stood barely below normal at 2.84 inches, but rain occurred on just a few days during the month. October received 0.82 inches, about a third of the normal precipitation. November's precipitation was 0.32 inches above

normal at 3.24 inches. Even more significantly, the first official snowfall was not recorded until 23 Nov, setting a record for the latest date ever. All of this added up to a pretty uneventful season for weather systems. Major fronts seemed to be nonexistent and bird movements and concentrations followed pretty much the same pattern. Birds seemed to be well dispersed and in some cases missing.

Undoubtedly, the event of the season and most likely the year was the first *Ancient Murrelet* for the Region and New York State. It was discovered by Bob Marcotte at the end of the Summerville Pier at the mouth of the Genesee River on 31 Oct. The bird afforded many observers great views as it fished in close proximity to the pier. The bird stayed around into November and was finally spotted flying west from Hamlin Beach and was later rediscovered off St. Catharines, Ontario. Full details will appear in a future *Kingbird*.

What was the fall migration like? The faithful group of observers at Hamlin Beach kept careful track of migrants on Lake Ontario. They indicated that birds were about average in variety and number during the season. The Red-throated Loon flight was very good, but Common Loon was down. The arrival of Red-necked Grebe during September was unusual, and the discovery of an Eared Grebe was noteworthy. The Lake Watch also produced two good counts of Brant. The usual jaeger reports came from that location.

Waterfowl concentrations were mixed. Dabbling duck totals seemed up a bit. Systematic observing along Lake Ontario helped here and the closing of Round Pond in Greece to hunting also was a big plus. The numbers of migrant diving ducks were lower than in recent years. Two reports of *Common Eider* were highlights for the season. Shorebird habitat was minimal and hence the shorebird totals also were low. The only consistent location was Ontario Beach at Charlotte. But even late in the season as the exposed mud flats increased, there continued to be few birds. The lack of Dunlin was noted by a number of observers. Gulls and terns were noteworthy most for the few reports of any unusual nature. There were very few tern observations and Little Gull was the only rare gull sighted.

Raptors were lackluster, with good reports of Cooper's Hawk about the only positive. There were few reports of Sharp-shinned Hawk and Northern Goshawk. A Golden Eagle was very unusual for the Region. Rough-legged Hawk arrived in fair numbers during October but were scarce after that. Peregrine Falcon continued to be reported with regularity. A Barn Owl was one of the few reports of this species this year. It may be a bit more common than observations indicate, but it is



still quite rare in the Region. Snowy Owl set a record early arrival date for the Region. Short-eared Owls were observed crossing Lake Ontario in October and November. A N. Saw-whet owl was one of the few fall records over the last 25 years. It is suspected that more actually migrate through, secretive at this time of the year.

The passerine migration, warblers in particular, was hard to interpret. Either there weren't very many birds or observers just weren't out looking for them. Bob Marcotte's almost daily check of Badgerow Park in Greece kept the variety of warbler species at about normal levels. The banding stations at Manitou Beach and a few good days in the backyard of Don & Donna Traver also added to the totals. The only warbler highlights for the season were Orange-crowned and Connecticut Warblers. If those were the only concentrations, then warblers were dismal. There was every indication that counts of other groups also were down. Good numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-throated Sparrow and American Goldfinch were reported at Hamlin Beach in October, but generally speaking the expected concentrations of sparrows were lacking. White-crowned Sparrow seemed to be in short supply.

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**Abbreviations:** HBSP - Hamlin Beach State Park; IB - Irondequoit Bay; SB - Sodus Bay.

**Fall Reports:** **Red-throated Loon:** arr two HBSP 15 Oct; max 1944 on 27 Nov. **Com. Loon:** max 516 HBSP 8 Nov, low total. **Horned Grebe:** arr HBSP 7 Sep, max 249 on 25 Oct. **Red-necked Grebe:** arr HBSP 11 Sep (WS, RS, MD), record early, max eight on 20 Oct. **Eared Grebe:** one HBSP 1 Oct (WS), very unusual. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 118 HBSP 27 Oct. **Brant:** arr one HBSP 9 Oct; max 1606 HBSP 1 Nov, 1438 2 Nov; last three HBSP 6 Nov. **Greater Scaup:** max 4676 HBSP 10 Nov. **Com. Eider:** one HBSP 15 Oct (CC, BE, WS); one HBSP 22 Oct (MDv, WS). **Com. Goldeneye:** arr four HBSP 15 Oct, max 1017 HBSP 13 Nov. **Bufflehead:** arr two HBSP 12 Oct, max 326 HBSP 1 Nov. **Oldsquaw:** arr L Ontario 18 Sep. **Hooded Merganser:** max 150 Conesus L 29 Nov. **Com. Merganser:** arr 15 HBSP 8 Oct. **Red-breasted Merganser:** max 944



HBSP 13 Nov. **Ruddy Duck**: max 42 SB 23 Oct (DS,MT), good total.

**Turkey Vulture**: last S Bristol 12 Nov. **Bald Eagle**: ad Conesus L 26 Nov, few reports. **N. Goshawk**: one Greece 24 Oct, few reports. **Golden Eagle**: one Naples 4 Nov (JC). **Rough-legged Hawk**: arr Braddock Bay 11 Oct. **Am. Coot**: max 500 SB 27 Nov. **Merlin**: max two Greece 13 Sep. **Peregrine Falcon**: singles Greece 1 Sep (KG), HBSP 1 Sep (CC, WS), Greece 10 Sep (RBA), HBSP 24 Sep (BE), excellent fall totals. **Purple Sandpiper**: arr three HBSP 1 Nov. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: one T Hamlin 17 Sep (DS), only report. **Parasitic Jaeger**: max three HBSP 18 Sep (CC, WS), three singles during Oct. **Forster's Tern**: max two Ontario Beach 17 Sep. *Ancient Murrelet*: intro.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: last Elba 11 Oct. **Barn Owl**: one where? 11 Oct (BE). **Snowy Owl**: arr Geneseo area 17 Oct (GH), record early. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: one banded Penfield 8 Nov (RMcK). **Com. Nighthawk**: max 53 Brighton 14 Sep (CC), numbers continue to dwindle.

**Willow Flycatcher**: last one Thousand Acre Swamp 2 Oct, late. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: max 80 HBSP 22 Oct. **Winter Wren**: max six Irondequoit 30 Sep. **Marsh Wren**: last two IB 21 Oct. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: arr Greece 18 Sep, last two S Bristol 22 Nov (P&JS). **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: arr Manitou 14 Sep, last HBSP, S Bristol 29 Oct. **N. Shrike**: arr Chili 25 Oct, few reports.

**Orange-crowned Warbler**: singles Greece 30 Sep (BM), Greece 3 Oct (BM), Manitou 10 Oct (RMc). **Palm Warbler**: last three Irondequoit Oct 8 (B&BP), only report. **Connecticut Warbler**: one Webster 30 Sep. **Mourning Warbler**: last Webster 11 Sep.

**Am. Tree Sparrow**: arr Chili 25 Oct. **Field Sparrow**: last at feeder Manitou 20 Nov (RO'H). **Vesper Sparrow**: last one Hogan Pt 28 Oct. **Fox Sparrow**: last three Webster P 27 Nov. **Lapland Longspur**: arr three HBSP 29 Oct. **Snow Bunting**: arr HBSP 9 Oct. **Pine Grosbeak**: arr two Irondequoit 31 Oct (RS, SS).

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## REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

STEVE KELLING

Weather conditions in the Finger Lakes Region were especially interesting in 1994 due to the tranquil nature of the season. No significant cold fronts passed through the Region until the last week in November! September weather was normal. Although the month started on the cool side, by mid month temperatures moderated. The only significant weather events were a cold front on 9 Sep and a coastal storm on 22 Sep. October was exceptionally dry with only 2 inches of precipitation, which was 2 inches below normal. Wind direction, as measured at Taughannock State Park, was southerly through most of October. November did not bring its usual late autumn weather to the Region. Instead the temperature remained 4°F above normal. On 23-24 Nov, a strong cold front packing northwest winds, with gusts up to 40 mph, moved through the Region.

Kestrel Haven Migration Observatory, located between Seneca and Cayuga Lake, banded over 2000 birds in their fall season. John Gregoire reported the banding operation was at a record pace until mid October. After this date the number of netted birds dropped off dramatically due to the late and reduced influx of winter resident birds such as American Tree Sparrow and Slate-colored Junco. The steady decline in the numbers of Field Sparrow banded there since 1987 saw a rebound in numbers captured. This increase was thought to be due to fewer cuttings of hay due to heavy rains in August. Many observers spent numerous September nights watching or listening to the bird migration. In particular, thrushes were heard in migration throughout the month of September. Ken Rosenberg reported a thrush flight in which he heard 380 thrush calls in 35 minutes on 30 Sep. Of these call notes, half of the them were from Swainson's Thrush, and a quarter each from Gray-cheeked Thrush and Wood Thrush. The fall warbler and sparrow passage through the Region was long and protracted, with many species remaining past their average late dates. Particularly notable were Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler and a Common Yellowthroat.

Raptor and waterfowl movements through the region were delayed or nonexistent. The hawk watch at Mount Pleasant near Ithaca did not see any large flights of Broad-winged Hawk, in contrast to past years. All three accipiters were reported as singles only. The fall migration of Common Loon occurred two weeks later this year, and it was not until the last week in November with the passage of the strong cold front that a large flight was observed. Over half of the Common Loon counted at

the Taughannock State Park Loon Watch on Cayuga Lake were associated with the passage of the front. However, the number of loons, 5800, counted was almost 2000 loons less than was counted last year. The migration of Common Loon was also monitored from Seneca Lake during November. There, Jack Brubaker and Bill Evans in particular, counted over 2500 Common Loon.

The most exciting area to bird in the Region was Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Tremendous numbers of waterfowl and gulls, most notably *Ross's Goose*, Eurasian Wigeon, and Lesser Black-backed Gull, were observed on the main pool. Most species of waterfowl were present in substantial numbers at the season's end. Tens of thousands of Tree Swallow roosted in the marsh in the early part of the season. These were replaced by millions of blackbirds, particularly Red-winged Blackbird, late in the season. The draw down of May's Point Pool produced a tremendous bird diversity through November. Up to 16 species of shorebird, over 10 species of waterfowl, 3 species of falcon and the highlight of two *Sandhill Crane* among numerous others bird species were observed at May's Point Pool. The managers at the refuge did an exceptional job promoting bird diversity at the refuge.

The migration of shorebirds was monitored at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge by Steve Kelling, Ken Rosenberg and others. The refuge was visited 11 times between 1 Sep and 12 Nov. Over 5000 individuals of 25 species were counted. Of interest was the large number of Lesser Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpiper. The numbers of these 2 species were much higher than those counted by Davis and Morris at Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge (see *Kingbird* fall reports between 1980 and 1988). This indicates that the Montezuma refuge is on an inland migratory route. Birds on this route benefit from intense shorebird habitat management, due to the constantly diminishing inland shorebird habitat available.

A total of 224 bird species was seen during the season. Birds of interest not already mentioned included Eared Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Cattle Egret, Little Blue Heron, Golden Eagle, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Connecticut Warbler, Dickcissel, and Henslow's Sparrow.

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**Abbreviations:** CLB - Cayuga Lake Basin; CH - Connecticut Hill State Forest; CV - Chemung Valley; CWG - Cornell University

Wildflower Garden; FLNF - Finger Lakes National Forest; HH - Hog Hole, Cass Park Marina, Ithaca; KHMO - Kestrel Haven Migration Observatory, Hector; MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; MPt - Myers Point, Lansing; StP - Stewart Park, Ithaca; SW - Sapsucker Woods Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Ithaca; TCa - Town of Caroline, TOMP; TSPLW - Taughannock State Park Loon Watch, 9 Oct-27 Nov; WG - Watkins Glen.

**Fall reports:** **Com. Loon:** max 993 TSPLW 23 Nov (TN), 852 Seneca L 24 Nov (JB, BE). **Red-throated Loon:** 13 TSPLW 2-26 Nov. **Pied-billed Grebe:** max 100 MNWR 13 Sep. **Horned Grebe:** max four TSPLW 26 Nov. **Red-necked Grebe:** five TSPLW 1-26 Nov, more than unusual. **Eared Grebe:** one Ithaca Yacht Club 12 Nov (SK). **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 100 MNWR 24 Sep; 60 StP 7 Nov; last 6 TSPLW 24 Nov. **Am. Bittern:** three MNWR 11 Sep. **Least Bittern:** last MNWR 5 Sep. **Great Blue Heron:** max 100 MNWR 2 Oct; numerous CV 30 Nov. **Great Egret:** max 18 MNWR 18 Sep; three MNWR 15 Oct; last MNWR 28 Oct. **Cattle Egret:** one Lansing 5 Nov (KM). **Little Blue Heron:** mottled imm Flint 1 Oct (JB). **Green Heron:** singles MNWR through Sep, last Ithaca 30 Sep (KR). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** five Elmira 5 Sep; max 12 MNWR 2 Oct. **Tundra Swan:** ten MNWR 4 Nov; max 160 MNWR 20 Nov. **Snow Goose:** two MNWR 2 Oct; max 250 TSPLW 2 Nov. **Ross's Goose:** ad light morph MNWR 5 Nov (TB). **Brant:** 35 TSPLW 10 Oct; max 349 TSPLW 2 Nov; last 11 TSPLW 11 Nov. **Canada Goose:** arr CV 30 Sep; max 2500 MNWR 20 Nov; large flight KHMO 25 Nov. **Wood Duck:** max 100 CV 8 Oct. **Green-winged Teal:** max 450 MNWR 3 Nov; last MNWR 30 Nov. **Am. Black Duck:** max 50 Aurora Bay 29 Oct. **Mallard:** max 2000 MPt 25 Nov. **N. Pintail:** one MNWR 18 Sep; max 323 TSPLW 27 Oct. **Blue-winged Teal:** max ten MNWR 18 Sep; last StP 25 Nov, late. **N. Shoveler:** 25 MNWR 18 Sep, max 50 on 20 Nov. **Gadwall:** one MNWR 18 Sep, max 81 on 12 Nov. **Eurasian Wigeon:** two MNWR 29 Oct. **Am. Wigeon:** 30 MNWR 18 Sep, max 1500 on 15 Oct. **Canvasback:** ten MNWR 24 Sep, max 2334 on 12 Nov, 1500 on 20 Nov. **Redhead:** 15 MNWR 13 Oct, max 69 on 12 Nov. **Ring-necked Duck:** arr MNWR 24 Sep, max 150 on 20 Nov. **Greater Scaup:** five MNWR 24 Sep, max 500 on 20 Nov. **Lesser Scaup:** two MNWR 2 Oct, max 250 on 29 Oct, last on 12 Nov. **Oldsquaw:** three TSPLW 22 Oct; nine TSPLW 12 Nov; last TSPLW 20 Nov. **Black Scoter:** two TSPLW 27 Oct; five TSPLW 13 Nov. **Surf Scoter:** two MNWR 2 Oct; nine TSPLW 25 Oct. **White-winged Scoter:** four Aurora Bay 2 Oct, 50 TSPLW 11 Nov; last TSPLW 16 Nov. **Com. Goldeneye:** one MNWR 12 Nov, max 3 on 20 Nov, scarce. **Bufflehead:** two MNWR 29 Oct; max 45 Cayuga L 12 Nov, 30 MNWR 20 Nov. **Hooded Merganser:** two MNWR 29 Oct; max 80 MNWR 11 Nov; 20 StP



26 Nov. **Com. Merganser**: three Cayuga SP 22 Oct; max 35 MNWR 12 Nov. **Red-breasted Merganser**: max 10 MNWR 29 Oct. **Ruddy Duck**: eight MNWR 13 Oct; max 390 on 11 Nov, 125 on 20 Nov.

**Turkey Vulture**: ten Elmira 5 Sep; max 13 Lansing 22 Oct; last 3 TSPLW 21 Nov. **N. Harrier**: max 12 near Geneva 26 Nov. **Bald Eagle**: 1 CV early Oct; max five ad MNWR 3 Nov, present entire period. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: singles Mt Pleasant mid Sep, numbers low throughout Region!. **Rough-legged Hawk**: arr TCa 12 Nov, KHMO 17 Nov. **Golden Eagle**: two KHMO 5 Sep, very early; max four Mt Pleasant 1 Oct (AF). **Merlin**: singles MNWR 4 Sep, CLB through mid Sep. last SW 4 Nov (KR, mob). **Peregrine Falcon**: imm MNWR 4 Sep-24 Sep (JC, mob); two CV 5 Sep; dark headed female MNWR 29 Oct-12 Nov (KR, SK, mob). **Ruffed Grouse**: max ten Phelps 18 Sep. **Wild Turkey**: max 100 KHMO. **Virginia Rail**: one Savannah 18 Sep (KR). **Com. Moorhen**: two MNWR 2 Oct; last eight Big Flats 8 Oct. **Am. Coot**: two MPt 2 Oct; max 500 CLB 29 Oct, 490 MNWR 12 Nov, 200 MPt 26 Nov. **Sandhill Crane** two ad MNWR 28 Oct-30 Nov (mob). **Black-bellied Plover**: four MNWR 18 Sep, last 4 on 15 Oct. **Am. Golden-Plover**: three MNWR 11 Sep, last and max six on 15 Oct. **Semipalmated Plover**: max 23 MNWR 11 Sep. last two on 7 Oct. **Killdeer**: max 132 MNWR 29 Oct. **Greater Yellowlegs**: max 40 MNWR 11 Sep, last 15 on 29 Oct. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: max 100 MNWR 7 Sep, last 35 on 29 Oct. **Spotted Sandpiper**: singles MPt 24 Sep, CV 9 Oct. **Sanderling**: several Kashong Pt Seneca L 4 Sep. **Red Knot**: one MNWR 28 Aug-7 Sep (KD). **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: max 92 MNWR 2 Sep. **W. Sandpiper**: max two MNWR 7 Sep, last on 11 Sep. **Least Sandpiper**: max 53 MNWR 7 Sep. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: max 8 MNWR 7 Sep, last on 29 Oct. **Baird's Sandpiper**: max two MNWR 7 Sep, last two on 22 Oct. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: max 90 MNWR 11 Sep, last 65 on 29 Oct. **Dunlin**: arr MNWR 11 Sep, max 44 on 22 Oct. **Stilt Sandpiper**: max 20 MNWR 11 Sep, last on 22 Oct. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: one Chiropractic College Seneca Falls 13 Sep (JG). **Short-billed Dowitcher**: last MNWR 7 Sep. **Long-billed Dowitcher**: max 11 MNWR 7 Sep, last MNWR 29 Oct. **Com. Snipe**: max 19 MNWR 12 Nov. **Am. Woodcock**: last MNWR 12 Nov. **Wilson's Phalarope**: two MNWR 11 Sep. **Red-necked Phalarope**: last MNWR 24 Sep. **Bonaparte's Gull**: two MNWR 2 Oct; one WG 2 Nov; last TSPLW 10 Nov. **Ring-billed Gull**: max 5000 Ithaca Yacht Club 23 Nov (TN). **Herring Gull**: max 500 e side Cayuga L 20 Nov. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: ad MNWR 24 Sep-12 Nov. **Great Black-backed Gull**: max 20 east side of Cayuga L 20 Nov. **Caspian Tern**: max and last three MNWR 2 Oct.

**Black-billed Cuckoo**: last HH 11 Sep (TE). **E. Screech-Owl**: two WG SP 15 Sep. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: juv netted Prattsburg 11 Sep (BM). **Barred**



**Owl:** one CH 5 Sep, only report! **Long-eared Owl:** one KHMO 19 Nov. **Short-eared Owl:** arr TSPLW 10 Nov; five King Ferry 29 Nov; four Seneca Falls Airport 30 Nov. **Com. Nighthawk:** max 50 Elmira 8 Sep; last Dryden L 25 Sep. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** last Ithaca 15 Oct, very late. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** three CH 5 Sep; three Cornell Plantations 30 Sep; one Phelps 30 Nov, late. **N. Flicker:** arr KHMO 12 Nov.

**E. Wood-Pewee:** low numbers KHMO through 29 Sep. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** one CH 5 Sep; two SW 7 Sep; last KHMO 20 Sep; more than usual. **Trail's Flycatcher:** last KHMO 30 Sep. **Purple Martin:** one KHMO 1 Oct; six MPt 16 Oct. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** max 50 MNWR 24 Sep, last five on 2 Oct. **Bank Swallow:** one CH 5 Sep; 10 MNWR 18 Sep; last MNWR 2 Oct. **Am. Crow:** 450 KHMO late Sep. **Fish Crow:** two StP 16 Oct. **Com. Raven:** two CV early Sep; one FLNF 2 Oct; one KHMO 13 Nov. **Carolina Wren:** fewer reports from Geneva. **Winter Wren:** one SW 27 Sep; three Southport 1 Oct; two HH 21 Oct; one Queen Catharine Marsh 16 Nov; KHMO 25 Nov. **Marsh Wren:** five MNWR 11 Sep; last HH 21 Oct. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr KHMO 11 Oct; max four HH 16 Oct. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr CH 5 Sep; arr KHMO 27 Sep, remained through period. **E. Bluebird:** max 30 CV 12 Oct. **Veery:** max 10 CH 5 Sep; 1 CV 10 Sep; last KHMO 11 Sep. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr KHMO 10 Sep; several SW 24 Sep; last SW 30 Sep. **Swainson's Thrush:** arr SW 18 Sep; numerous SW 30 Sep. **Hermit Thrush:** three CH 5 Sep; one TCa 22 Oct; last KHMO 7 Nov. **Wood Thrush:** two SW 15 Sep. **Am. Robin:** flocks of 100+ TSPLW Nov. **Gray Catbird:** max 10 TCa 10 Sep. **Brown Thrasher:** last CV 18 Sep, only report. **Am. Pipit:** arr MNWR 11 Sep; max 360 KHMO 6 Nov; last MNWR 20 Nov. **Cedar Waxwing:** 50 CH 5 Sep; 200 banded! KHMO late Oct. **N. Shrike:** arr FLNF 17 Nov, TCa 17 Nov; one Freeville 20 Nov.

**Solitary Vireo:** max four CV 24 Sep. **Yellow-throated Vireo:** singles only. **Warbling Vireo:** singles only. **Philadelphia Vireo:** max six CH 5 Sep; last two SW 20 Sep. **Red-eyed Vireo:** max five SW 9 Sep. **Blue-winged Warbler:** singles only. **Tennessee Warbler:** max two SW 6 Sep. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** singles KHMO 4 Sep, TCa 17 Sep, SW 24-30 Sep, SW 4 Oct. **Nashville Warbler:** max three TCa 17 Sep. **N. Parula:** max 15 CWG 16 Sep (SK, TE). **Yellow Warbler:** 1 KHMO 1 Sep; very late straggler adult male, vocalizing MNWR 5 Nov (TL). **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max three CWG 16 Sep. **Magnolia Warbler:** max ten CH 5 Sep. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max five SW 20 Sep. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 20 CLB 2 Oct. **Black-throated Green Warbler:** max 5 CH 5 Sep; very late straggler CV 15 Nov (DC). **Blackburnian Warbler:** max 2 SW 12 Sep. **Prairie Warbler:** one CWF 16 Sep; two SW 20 Sep; last CV 23

Sep. **Pine Warbler**: one MPt 2 Oct; last CV 2 Oct. **Palm Warbler**: arr CWG 16 Sep; two SW 22 Sep; last SW 23 Sep. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: max three SW 6 Sep. **Blackpoll Warbler**: arr KHMO 8 Sep; max four SW 12 Sep. **Black-and-white Warbler**: singles only. **Ovenbird**: max six SW 15 Sep. **Connecticut Warbler**: two CWG 16 Sep (SK, TE); one Ellis Hollow 1 Oct (LS). **Mourning Warbler**: last KHMO 18 Sep. **Com. Yellowthroat**: max 50 CH 5 Sep; one KHMO 25 Oct; last MNWR 20 Nov (KR), very late. **Hooded Warbler**: one KHMO 22 Sep; last SW 30 Sep. **Wilson's Warbler**: two SW 5 Sep. **Canada Warbler**: singles only.

**Scarlet Tanager**: max three CH 5 Sep. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: numerous SW 6-21 Sep; last KHMO 2 Oct. **Indigo Bunting**: two TCa 17 Sep; last KHMO 22 Sep. **Dickcissel**: one Lansing 7 Oct (BE). **Rufous-sided Towhee**: last KHMO 6 Nov, record numbers banded, scarce elsewhere. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: arr KHMO 3 Nov. **Chipping Sparrow**: max 20 MPt 2 Oct; last SW 11 Oct. **Field Sparrow**: max 8 MPt 2 Oct; last KHMO 16 Nov. **Savannah Sparrow**: max 20 Kings Ferry 24 Sep; last Canoga 22 Oct. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: singles KHMO 6 Sep, 2 Oct. **Henslow's Sparrow**: one KHMO 1 Sep. **Fox Sparrow**: several FLNF 30 Oct; one Fayette 20 Nov. **Song Sparrow**: max 20 MPt 24 Sep. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: singles only. **Swamp Sparrow**: max 15 MNWR 18 Sep. **White-throated Sparrow**: arr two SW 22 Sep; max 10 SW 15 Oct. **White-crowned Sparrow**: arr two MPt 2 Oct, scarce. **Lapland Longspur**: one Kings Ferry 6 Oct, four on 7 Oct; 1 MPt 24 Nov. **Snow Bunting**: 45 TSPLW 9 Nov; 50 MNWR 12 Nov. **Bobolink**: only report SW 8 Sep. **N. Oriole**: singles only. **Red-winged Blackbird**: 1,000,000+ MNWR Oct-Nov. **E. Meadowlark**: two MPt 2 Oct; last CV late Oct. **Rusty Blackbird**: arr two MPt 24 Sep; max 125 SW 16 Nov, 30 on 22 Nov. **Com. Grackle**: thousands MNWR Oct-Nov. **Purple Finch**: several SW through Sep- Oct; 1 SW 4 Nov; entire period KHMO. **Pine Siskin**: 50 Lansing 22 Oct. only report. **Am. Goldfinch**: 25 CH 5 Sep; unusually low numbers KHMO; stable CV. **Evening Grosbeak**: 11 TSPLW 11 Nov; one Bristol 27 Nov.

**Corrigendum**: *Kingbird* 44(3):213. Blackpoll Warbler arr 14 May, not 1 May.

**Addenda**: *Kingbird* 44(3):214. **Hoary Redpoll**: KHMO 16 Mar (JG, NYSARC). *Kingbird* 44(4):ppp. **Swainson's Hawk**: KHMO 3 Jun (JG, NYSARC).

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## REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

MARY DOBINSKY

Fall 1994 was a wish come true, weatherwise. Well, maybe not for birders! But even they had to appreciate the mild temperatures, abundant sunshine, beautiful and extended foliage season and scarcity of heavy rains. The first week of September was cold, lowering the month's average temperature 2°F below normal. October's mean temperature was slightly above normal. Although frosts started nipping less hardy plants 3 Oct in the Region's northern sector especially, the National Weather Service station at Binghamton recorded no temperature readings below 32°F all month. November was the shocker! The mean temperature for the month exceeded the norm by 12.5°! On 4 Nov the mercury climbed to 75°F at Oneonta's weather station, shattering the old record of 70° set in 1946. Precipitation was below normal each month, especially October when a scant 0.90 inch of rain was measured, two inches below average. The first snow held off until Thanksgiving Eve, 23 Nov when 3.6 inches fell at Binghamton Airport. Exit Indian Summer. The period's mild, dry weather made for a poor but topsy-turvy migration season. The roster of missed birds is one of the longest ever. Some birds had left in August or earlier. At the other extreme, many individual birds stayed to set record late departure dates for their species, notably American Redstart and Broad-winged Hawk in November!

September dawned on the heels of a cold late August and a very wet summer. There were no exposed mud flats and scant tempting shoreline. Water levels remained high in rivers, lakes, ponds until mid October. Loons, grebes and herons appeared in usual to good numbers. Unprecedented numbers of Brant were sighted but Snow Goose was missed for the first time in at least ten years. Canada Goose was most noticeable for flocks of up to 250 birds that settled on local lakes and ponds in October and remained through the period. Such numbers are a problem in the making. Most migrating ducks passed us by. So did our usual visiting shorebirds. An exception was a rare *Willet*.

Despite balmy weather and lack of strong Canadian cold fronts, 4,248 raptors were counted at Franklin Mt. Hawk Watch, for the second highest total in its six year history. Last year's 5,125 birds holds the record. Chris Vredenburg, compiler, noted that declines were obvious among early migrants such as Broad-winged Hawk, down 57% from last

year, and Osprey, down 41%. Even though the weather continued unseasonal, later migrants were plentiful. Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk and Merlin topped their previous season records. Golden Eagle surpassed 100 birds for the third successive year. The raptor highlight of the season, however, was a very rare *Gyr Falcon*.

Flycatchers, swallows, thrushes, vireos, warblers, sparrows—you name it, they were all hard to find. From Norwich, Don Windsor wrote, "If you ever wondered what the world would be like without any birds, you should have been on some of my field trips." From Vestal, Gail Kirch graded her October banding as "dismal - 100 fewer birds than Oct '93 for the same number of net hours - very few sparrows." Her reward might be considered the *White-eyed Vireo* she banded.

Desirable insects may have vanished by September, but summer had been a good growing season and most fruits, berries, seeds and nuts were abundant. Mountain Ash and Gray Dogwood, still loaded with berries at Thanksgiving, were cited by observers as proof that birds had just passed over our area. Declining populations of course can't be ignored. Puny suggestions of migration fallout were a small flurry of a dozen warblers at a Franklin Mt. wetland on 24 Sep and another at Morris on 26 Sep that included mostly single birds of eight warbler species. A Weed Walkers field trip 7 Oct at Johnson City was considered "a Great Day" by Marie Petuh. "Four species popped out of a large cherry tree to scold a passing cat. From top down, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Song Sparrow, House Wren and finally, about a foot from the ground, a very uncommon Yellow-breasted Chat." It was the fourth fall sighting in the last 15 years for both the chat and the gnatcatcher. Of the winter finches, only token Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak had been seen by period's close.

The species list of 158 bird was the lowest since 1986 but only down four from last year. The most exciting rarity perhaps was the Region's first *Northern Wheatear*. Other rarities not already mentioned included Tundra Swan and Short-eared Owl. Notable misses this season were American Bittern, Snow Goose, both scaup, Oldsquaw, all scoters, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Solitary Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Common Snipe, both cuckoos, Great Crested Flycatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush, American Pipit, Northern Shrike, Yellow-throated Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Indigo Bunting (never missed until last fall), Vesper Sparrow, and Bobolink.

**Observers:** Cutler & Jeannette Baldwin, R. & J. Barnes, Les Bemont, Binghamton Naturalists Club, Ted Buhl, Peg Burnett, Ken & Nora



Craver, Mary Dobinsky, Sadie Dorber, Walter Ellison, John Fritz, Steve Hall, Elva Hawken, Jim Hoteling, Gail Kirch, Margaret Layton, Mary Mahlum, Harriet Marsi, Nancy Martin, Andy Mason, Ron Milliken, Marie Petuh, Halladay Pierce, Robert Pantle, Joan Quinlan, Tom & JoAnn Salo, Joseph Sedlacek, Gerry Smith, Tom & Norene Tasber, Bill Toner, Ed Treacy, Chris Vredenburg, Don & Joanne Weber, Weed Walkers of BNC, Nancy Weissflog, Don Windsor, Irene Wright.

**Abbreviations:** CanRes - Cannonsville Reservoir; CHW - Cortland Hawk Watch (Riley Road); FHNC - Finch Hollow Nature Center; FMHW - Franklin Mt. Hawk Watch; JCy Johnson City; RRPd - Railroad Pond Oneonta; OPM- Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; REEC - Rogers Environmental Education Center, Sherburne.

**Fall reports:** **Com. Loon:** arr and max nine Otsego L 3 Sep (MM); dozens of singles FMHW all period (CV), high count. **Pied-billed Grebe:** seven reports Sep; last two Vestal 19 Oct (WW). **Red-necked Grebe:** TIOG 20 Sep (C&JB), only one. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 210 in three flocks FMHW 14 Oct, high. **Great Blue Heron:** eight to 10 reports/month, max six 1 Oct, late departure. **Great Egret:** max two at five widespread sites to 26 Sep, excellent count. **Green Heron:** three singles to 10 Sep. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** one Susquehanna R near Milford 5 Sep (T&JS); one TIOG Oct (RP), often missed. **Tundra Swan:** two FMHW 7 Nov (GS), fourth fall since 1979. **Bean Goose:** with Canada Geese Oneonta RRPd 18-24 Oct, probable escape seen other seasons at Otsego L (MD). **Brant:** max about 1,000 in several flocks FMHW 27 Oct (WE), max 700-800 there 2 Nov (JH), last small flock 22 Nov (GS); record max. **Wood Duck:** max 100+ Boland Pd 6 Sep (JH); last five CHEN 10 Nov. **Green-winged Teal:** Oneonta 18 Oct-18 Nov, max four. **Am. Black Duck:** 10 reports, max six Boland Pd 10 Nov. **Mallard:** widespread after late Sep, max 100. **Blue-winged Teal:** three BROO, one TIOG reports to 25 Sep, max six. **Am. Wigeon:** only six CanRes 30 Nov (WW). **Ring-necked Duck:** only report TIOG Nov, scarce. **Bufflehead:** only report White's Pd CHEN 10 Nov (DW), scarce. **Hooded Merganser:** arr Bowman L CHEN 5 Nov (DW), only site, scarce. **Com. Merganser:** max 100+ Goodyear L after 25 Nov (IW,MD), high count.

**Turkey Vulture:** FMHW total 78. **Osprey:** FMHW total 96, max 12 on 18 Sep. **Bald Eagle:** FMHW total 27, season record; max five CanRes 12 Nov; two CHW 30 Sep. **N. Harrier:** FMHW total 100; max eight 3 Nov; CHW total 17. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** FMHW total 449, max 50 on 30 Sep. **Cooper's Hawk:** FMHW total 65, max six on 6 Oct. **N. Goshawk:** FMHW total 62, max five 23 Nov. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** FMHW total 85, max 14 on 10 Nov, record season and one day highs. **Broad-winged**



**Hawk:** FMHW total 594, max 332 on 15 Sep. **Red-tailed Hawk:** FMHW total 2226, just short of record total; max 407 on 7 Nov; two albinos. **Rough-legged Hawk:** arr FMHW 5 Oct, total 19; CHW total six Nov. **Golden Eagle:** FMHW total 103. **Am. Kestrel:** FMHW total 135, max 31 on 15 Sep, one day record high. **Merlin:** FMHW total 10; TIOG Sep (RP); "hit a window but escaped safely" Nov (C&JB). **Peregrine Falcon:** FMHW total 10; one CHW 29 and 30 Sep. **Gyr Falcon:** gray bird FMHW 17 Nov (GS, RM, ET, MP, JH, SH, NYSARC). **Ring-necked Pheasant:** max seven Bainbridge 5 Sep (DW); several two OPM sites 17 and 19 Oct, four others, high count, released birds? **Wild Turkey:** max 36 OPM 6 Sep. **N. Bobwhite:** four Smithville Flats CHEN 20 Nov (JH). **Com. Moorhen:** Boland Pd 24 Sep (JH), often missed. **Am. Coot:** max 12 Otsego L 25 Nov, good count. **Killdeer:** max 30 BROO 1 Oct. **Greater Yellowlegs:** only one TIOG Sep, scarce. **Willet:** one Mirror L Owego 11 Sep (WWBNC), perhaps Regional first. **Spotted Sandpiper:** only one Chenango R 11 Sep. **Am. Woodcock:** max four Preston CHEN 21 Oct (EH). **Ring-billed Gull:** max 30 Otsego L 19 Nov, low count.

**E. Screech-Owl:** seven reports, two road kills TIOG. **Great Horned Owl:** eight widespread sites. **Barred Owl:** two CHEN Sep, Oct (EH); one Triangle 1-22 Sep (T&NT); two TIOG 15 Oct to early Nov (JS); one with gunshot wound found at Owego Nov later died (MP); high count. **Short-eared Owl:** Strong Road McDonough 21 Nov (Gary Sweet *fide* EH), third fall report since 1982. **Com. Nighthawk:** max 15 Vestal 7 Sep, last 28 Sep (JH). **Chimney Swift:** only report TIOG Sep. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** only report TIOG Oct, Nov, scarce. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** seven singles to 13 Oct. **Pileated Woodpecker:** ten scattered reports, good count.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Crumhorn L 2 Sep (MD), not seen every fall. **E. Wood-Pewee:** two singles, scarce. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** banded Vestal 18 Sep, often missed. **Traill's Flycatcher:** only one Vestal 5 Sep. **E. Kingbird:** four reports, max three, low count. **Horned Lark:** arr 16 CanRes 12 Nov (BNC). **Tree Swallow:** max four OPM 1 Sep, scarce. **Com. Raven:** two each three sites, FMHW 18 and 19 Sep; Preston CHEN 22 and 26 Nov; Catatonk 10-27 Nov, high count. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** best counts Oct. **Carolina Wren:** five reports Oct-Nov, max two, scarce. **House Wren:** eight Sep reports, good. **Winter Wren:** two singles Sep, three Oct, low. **Marsh Wren:** Boland Pd 20 Sep, not every fall. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max four BROO 16 Oct. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr 1 Oct; last two 3 Nov. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** six reports; *intro.* **N. Wheatear:** near Cherry Valley n OTSE late Sep (TB, NYSARC), identified by "the classic black T-Bar on the white tail." **E. Bluebird:**

max 40-50 W. Bainbridge 15 Sep (K&NC); 32 in flights over two OTSE sites 27 Oct; 22 JCy 5 Nov, good numbers. **Veery**: five banded Vestal mid Sep, better than recent years. **Swainson's Thrush**: only one T Preston 12 Oct (EH), very scarce. **Hermit Thrush**: seven at three sites mid Oct; last Norwich 29 Oct, scarce. **Wood Thrush**: two each Endwell and Catatonk Sep and Oct (JS); one T Preston 13 Sep, scarce. **Gray Catbird**: max 34 Banded Vestal Sep, eight Oct. **N. Mockingbird**: singles four widespread sites Oct, none Nov, low. **Brown Thrasher**: only four singles. **Cedar Waxwing**: max 50 T Preston 12 Sep.

**White-eyed Vireo**: imm banded Vestal 30 Oct (GK), last reported fall 1980. **Solitary Vireo**: five reports each Sep and Oct, max two, scarce. **Warbling Vireo**: three singles BROO, one CHEN, scarce. **Red-eyed Vireo**: 23 banded Vestal, max nine on 10 Sep, good count. **Blue-winged Warbler**: one Vestal 24 Sep; one Morris 26 Sep, second latest departure since 1961. **Tennessee Warbler**: arr Laurens OTSE 5 Sep, three others. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: two Norwich 16 Sep (DW), fifth fall since 1978. **Nashville Warbler**: max seven banded Vestal 17-19 Sep. **Yellow Warbler**: only one TIOG 2 Oct (R&JB). **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: max three T Preston 4 Sep. **Magnolia Warbler**: max three banded Vestal 17 Sep, 15 others. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: max two, three reports. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: max 20 Crumhorn L on 1 Sep. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: 11 reports Sep, four Oct, max two, scarce. **Blackburnian Warbler**: singles BROO, CHEN 4 Sep; TIOG 23 Oct (D&JW), record late. **Prairie Warbler**: only one FMHW wetland 24 Sep. **Pine Warbler**: only one TIOG Sep (R&JB). **Palm Warbler**: singles JCy 18 Sep and Morris 26 Sep. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: arr W. Laurens 5 Sep (JQ), two others, scarce. **Blackpoll Warbler**: one Morris; two banded Vestal, scarce. **Black-and-white Warbler**: only one BROO 4 Sep. **Am. Redstart**: two singles Sep; and REEC 15 and 22 Nov, record late. **Ovenbird**: 11 banded Vestal Sep, four others, good count. **N. Waterthrush**: three banded Vestal, missed last two years. **Wilson's Warbler**: last of three singles Morris 26 Sep. **Canada Warbler**: four reports, missed last fall. **Yellow-breasted Chat**: *intro*.

**Scarlet Tanager**: max six OPM 8 Sep. **N. Cardinal**: female feeding two recent FL McGraw 3 Oct (BT). **Rufous-sided Towhee**: max six JCy 3 Sep. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: arr CHEN sites 3 Oct, early. **Chipping Sparrow**: max 12 OPM 20 Oct. **Savannah Sparrow**: several BROO, TIOG Sep; two singles OTSE to 13 Oct, scarce. **Fox Sparrow**: arr CHEN 26 Oct; last of four others 26 Nov, scarce. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: five reports, max two, BROO 24 Sep-19 Oct. **Swamp Sparrow**: last banded Vestal 22 Oct, scarce. **White-throated Sparrow**: four banded Vestal Sep, 20 in Oct. **White-crowned**

**Sparrow:** arr 1 Oct; max six JCy 16 Oct. **Snow Bunting:** only one CORT 17 Nov (BT). **E. Meadowlark:** three CORT reports, max six on 24 Oct; only two others, scarce. **Rusty Blackbird:** max six FMHW wetland 17 Oct (WW). **Com. Grackle:** max 300+ Milford 6 Sep; last report 4 Nov. **N. Oriole:** imm FMHW 2 Oct, only report, late. **Purple Finch:** max eight T Preston 4 Sep; five other sites. **House Finch:** 31 banded Vestal 6-15 Oct.  
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## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

DOROTHY W. CRUMB AND JIM THROCKMORTON

As is typical of Central New York, the fall weather was unpredictable. Since the overall jet stream pattern had not really changed from last spring, we were expecting an early return to winter. It didn't happen. In early September, it seemed that summer had officially ended. Daytime highs struggled to reach the low and mid fifties. There were a couple of bouts of heavy lake-effect rain. But things leveled out and the average temperature for September was 60.9°F, only 0.6° below normal. The high temperature for the month was 85°F on 15 Sep and the low was 42°F on 5 Sep. Precipitation for September, even with two heavy storms, was 1.36 inches below normal at 2.43 inches. October was a sunny month with its average temperature of 50.6°F only 0.1° below normal. The highest temperature for the month was 77°F on 8 Oct and the lowest was 28°F on 16 Oct. Prior to 31 Oct, there had only been 0.77 inches of rain. A record-setting 0.84 inches on 31 Oct not only ruined Halloween costumes, but brought the total monthly rainfall to 1.61 inches, still 1.63 inches below average. November began very mild. The first 7 days of November averaged just over 9° above normal. A record high of 75°F was set on 5 Nov and 72°F broke the record for 14 Nov. The 44.1°F average, 3.6° above normal, made this the tenth warmest November on record. The 3.50 inches of precipitation was only 0.22 inches below normal. The first snowfall of the season on 22 Nov was the latest ever, and the total snow for the month was 3.8 inches. The low for the month was 14°F on 27 Nov, which helped retain some of the snow at higher elevations.

The many clear nights at peak migration time let most of migrating passerines continue their journey southward. The result was very low

counts of species and individuals for birdwatchers, but the birds may have benefited. At least the leaves were beautiful for a much longer period than usual. Dave Cesari said he had not seen such a poor migration in his forty years of birding. Bill Purcell wrote, "I missed a lot of warblers altogether and I never had a day when they were dripping from the trees, or a single tree, or even a bush for that matter."

Thrushes were also very scarce. There were some scattered reports of Veery and Hermit Thrush, and only one report of Swainson's Thrush. A surprising collection of Wood Thrush was reported by Joe Brin from Whiskey Hollow, Town of Lysander, near Baldwinsville. At least two immature Acadian Flycatcher were also present. The 27 species of warblers reported had a total of only 724 individuals seen by all observers. As usual, Yellow-rumped Warbler was the commonest, with 281 individuals. Compare this with spring, when 1200 were seen at one location in one day. Two separate Connecticut Warbler were found. The sparrow migration was equally dismal. Although the dogwood berry crop was tremendous, White-throated Sparrow did not persist as they usually do, tending to attract other sparrows. Does this indicate that good weather has more impact than available food?

There were four reports of Merlin. There was a new fall record for Turkey Vulture departure. Apparently the lack of snow cover allowed the carrion feeders to stay north longer. Spotting Bald Eagle is beginning to become a non-event, exciting as eagles are to see. Singles were regularly reported.

Shorebirds followed the same pattern as other migrants. Lack of rainy or cloudy nights kept them moving. Numbers of individuals of various species were very low and there were no rarities. Double-crested Cormorant was extraordinarily scarce on Lake Ontario, and the high counts came from inland lakes. American Coot was an unexpected visitor to Delta Lake.

An exciting area that needs more exploration is Beaver River, near Stillwater Reservoir in HERK. Tom Salo walked the railroad tracks there to bogs that had Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, and Red Crossbill. Gray Jay and Red Crossbill were also seen in the Moose River plains, where they have been found in the past. Common Raven was seen in normal locations in the Adirondacks, but a calling pair south of Fabius in October was a pleasant surprise. Raven could be breeding in that high country, since they have been observed there previously, but no evidence of nesting has been found.

Carolina Wren apparently did not survive the last two extremely cold and snowy winters in any numbers.



There were 209 species and one race reported for the fall season by 25 bored contributors. This is down considerably from 231 species last year. Probably the rarest species of the season was *Sandhill Crane*, did not persist. A half-size, probable Richardson's Goose was seen flying with a string of normal Canada Geese. The Sandhill Crane and increase of Bald Eagle were the high spots of the migration. There were many lows, with few shorebirds or passerines reported. Winter finches were very scarce. Only one late departure record was set.

**Contributors:** Sue Adair, Sue Boettger, Joe Brin, Dave Cesari, Dorothy Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Mary Dreiling, Robert Evans, Bill Gruenbaum, Gene Huggins, Mary Alice Koeneke, Gary Lee, Robert Long, Dave Longley, David Nash, Vincent O'Neill, Cindy Page, Wayne Powell, Bill Purcell, Marge Rusk, Tom Salo, Maureen Staloff, Ed Street, Jim Throckmorton (JTn), Judy Thurber (JTr).

**Abbreviations:** Adks - Adirondacks; DLSP - Delta Lake State Park, ONEI; DH - Derby Hill OSWE. CIM - Clay Marsh ONON; LSB - Little Sodus Bay, Fair Haven, and vicinity, CAYU; LOL - Lake Ontario littoral, OSWE; NPT - northern Pompey Township, ONON; OnonL - Onondaga Lake, ONON; SPd - Sandy Pond OSWE; SSSP - Selkirk Shores State Park, OSWE; SVB - Sylvan-Verona Beach, ONEI; UM - Utica Marsh, Utica, ONEI.

**Fall reports:** **Com. Loon:** max 50 DH 2 Nov; two ad two FL Moss L HERK 10 Sep. **Pied-billed Grebe:** max six LSB 22 Oct. **Horned Grebe:** max ten LOL 13 Nov. **Red-necked Grebe:** only reports one SSSP 15 Oct, one LSB 16 Oct, one OnonL 24 Nov. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 925 OnonL 5 Sep (DN); 75 Delta L 4 Sep. **Am. Bittern:** only report one W Monroe 20 Oct. **Great Egret:** only four singles. **Green Heron:** max three Hastings 20 Sep, three UM 4 Sep, three DLSP 4 Sep. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** only report imm LSB 30 Oct. **Snow Goose:** max five W Monroe 8 Oct, two other singles. **Brant:** arr 200 DH 14 Oct, max 3060 DH 2 Nov. **Canada Goose:** probably Richardson's race flying over LSB in string of normal birds 23 Oct (MAK). **Wood Duck:** max 1240 W Monroe 5 Sep. **Green-winged Teal:** max 200 DLSP 24 Sep. **N. Pintail:** max 43 DH 2 Nov. **Blue-winged Teal:** max 150 DLSP 4 Sep. **Am. Wigeon:** max 245 LSB 30 Oct. **Oldsquaw:** max 560 DH 2 Nov. **Surf Scoter:** max 111 DH 30 Sep. **Com. Goldeneye:** max 620 LSB 25 Nov. **Ruddy Duck:** max 25 LSB 30 Oct and 6 Nov.

**Turkey Vulture:** 13 Dewitt 14 Nov; three Syracuse 18 Nov, record late. **Bald Eagle:** four different individuals DLSP. **Broad-winged Hawk:** max 22 Highland Forest ONON 5 Sep. **Rough-legged Hawk:** arr Pennelville 20 Nov. **Merlin:** one preening on a sandbar Stillwater Res HERK 9 Oct; one apparently hit by car Syracuse Sep, another apparently



hit by car Pompey 9 Oct, taken to Cindy Page for rehabilitation but only one survived; one near Onondaga P Syracuse 27 Nov, where they have roosted in the winter for the past few years. **Am. Coot:** 45 DLSP late Oct through Nov (MS), unusual location; max 300 UM 4 Sep, 155 LSB 30 Oct, more numerous than usual. **Sandhill Crane:** two between Mohawk and Ilion HERK 21 Sep (*fide* ES). **Black-bellied Plover:** max eight SPd 22 Oct. **Am. Golden-Plover:** only reports one UM 4 Sep, one SPd 5 Sep. **Semipalmated Plover:** max 17 DLSP 4 Sep. **Greater Yellowlegs:** max 25 DLSP 19 Sep. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 15 DLSP 19 Sep. **Solitary Sandpiper:** max three DLSP 4 Sep. **Ruddy Turnstone:** only report one LSB 3 Sep. **Red Knot:** only report imm SVB 11-17 Sep. **Sanderling:** max 78 SPd 8 Sep. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 20 DLSP 3 Sep. **W. Sandpiper:** one SPd 8 Sep. **Least Sandpiper:** max 50 DLSP 4 Sep. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** singles only, DLSP 4 Sep, DLSP 14 Sep, LSB 30 Oct. **Baird's Sandpiper:** max six DLSP 6-11 Sep. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 12 DLSP 1 Sep. **Purple Sandpiper:** only report one DH 4 Nov. **Dunlin:** max 17 SPd 30 Sep, low, early. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** only report imm calling DLSP 4 Sep. **Parasitic Jaeger:** one DH 30 Sep, two DH 4 Nov, only reports. **Bonaparte's Gull:** max 80 SVB 14 Aug, low. **Ring-billed Gull:** max 1200 LOL 12 Nov. **Glaucous Gull:** arr one DH 22 Nov. **Black-legged Kittiwake:** ad DH 2 Nov, only report. **Caspian Tern:** last SPd 28 Sep. **Com. Tern:** one DH 4 Nov, late. **Forster's Tern:** imm SPd 5 Sep.

**Com. Nighthawk:** last Syracuse 12 Sep. **Black-backed Woodpecker:** one Beaver R HERK 11 Nov.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** only report SVB 17 Sep. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** only report DLSP 3 Sep. **Acadian Flycatcher:** two imm Whiskey Hollow ONON 5 Sep (JB), nesting location. **Gray Jay:** one Beaver R 12 Nov. **Com. Raven:** *intro*. **Carolina Wren:** only report one Fayetteville 5 Oct. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 35 NPT 15 Oct. **Swainson's Thrush:** only one report. **Wood Thrush:** over 100, some in groups, some singles, Whiskey Hollow ONON 5 Sep (JB), apparently a group of migrants and Regional record max for any season. **Am. Pipit:** max 60 n ONEI 10 Oct (MS). **N. Shrike:** arr Syracuse 16 Nov. (VO), only report.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 65, low. **Connecticut Warbler:** one Shackleton Pt MADI 25 Sep (JTr); one Pompey 2 Oct (DWC).

**Snow Bunting:** max 40 LSB 24 Nov. **Red Crossbill:** four Beaver R HERK 14 Nov. **Pine Siskin:** max 20 Old Forge 26 Nov.

**Corrigendum:** *Kingbird* 44(3):225. **Wilson's Phalarope:** should read female, not male.

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## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

The Region 6 report had not arrived in time for inclusion in this issue of *The Kingbird*.

## REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

Fall was cloudy, yet rather pleasant overall, with two inches of snow at Inlet on 5 Oct while Plattsburgh did not record a temperature below freezing until 17 Oct. Lake Champlain had dropped to 94.5 ft by 1 Nov. The first snow in the Saranac-Placid region fell the next day. It remained cloudy and rainy until mid Nov, with two inches of snowfall in the Adirondacks 22 Nov. By dawn on 23 Nov, Inlet had 18 inches of snow cover and a temperature of 0°F by midnight. Limekiln Lake froze 27 Nov, but the ice blew out with the wind and rain of the following day. Seasonal temperatures were above normal. Robins were "still flying around munching on Mountain Ash berries" at the end of the season, according to Gary Lee.

A respectable 166 species were reported, an improvement over last fall, but short of the 173 reported in 1992. Only 11 were shorebirds, a reflection of fairly high lake levels since the summer, but included a *Ruff*, or, more properly, an immature Reeve, a new species for the Region and CLIN.

Between 1 Sep and 23 Nov, a total of 221 birds of 38 species was banded near Elizabethtown. Bud Lanyon banded a downslope transient (Bicknell's) Gray-cheeked Thrush on Porter Mt. on 24 Oct, while a migrant *bicknelli* was banded by Mike Peterson near Elizabethtown 29 Sep. Mountain tops also provided a few other interesting birds, including Black-backed Woodpecker, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, American Pipit, Lapland Longspur, Red Crossbill, and Pine Siskin. Thanks to bird-banding operations and to observers seeking fall departure dates, a total of 21 warbler species was reported. Although there were a few obvious misses, there were also some nice finds: Orange-crowned Warbler, Cape May Warbler, *Prairie Warbler*, both "Western" and "Yellow" Palm Warbler, and Wilson's Warbler.

Krueger reported 48 black-on-yellow neck-collared "Greater" Snow Geese at Point au Roche 9 Oct-30 Nov, two of them previously seen in

1992 and another two in 1993; all are presumed to come from Bylot Island, N.W.T., Canada. The origin of four Canada Geese wearing black-on-white bibs at Westport 3-17 Sep is still unknown. Also noteworthy was a small Canada Goose and, although increasingly regular on Lake Champlain, Barrow's Goldeneye, and, perhaps rarest of all in this Region, *Ruddy Duck*.

Two Mute Swan along the Adirondack Northway (1-87) just s of the Champlain border crossing on 11 Nov were unclipped two-year old offspring of the swans at Champlain Valley Physicians' Hospital that escaped from owner Marcella White of West Chazy. Gretch had a similar experience with Champlain Valley Physicians' Hospital progeny at L Alice on 20 Nov 1983, when unclipped immatures escaped Miner Institute in Chazy. With the hospital continuing to give away cygnets and owners allowing them to fly freely, all of the recent Mute Swan records near Lake Champlain seem of dubious origin.

Arrivals of species from Canada, including Rough-legged Hawk, Snowy Owl, Bohemian Waxwing, Northern Shrike, the aforementioned Lapland Longspur, and Snow Bunting, were generally seasonal. Bohemian Waxwing has now appeared in all but two years since the winter of 1979-80, i.e., in 12 of the last 14 winters. In spite of an excellent cone crop (hemlock, pine, and spruce), winter finches were slow in arriving. Only a few Purple Finch were noted. However, there were seven reports of Red Crossbill from three counties. Only three small flocks of Pine Siskin were found, and there were just two reports of Evening Grosbeak. Most numerous was American Goldfinch, yet the largest flock had only 30 birds.

The Thaxtons witnessed a surprised Northern Goshawk, probably pumping adrenaline as well as its wings, being chased by a Peregrine Falcon at Lake Colden on 14 Sep. The absurdity of the season, however, goes to the precariously balanced hen Wild Turkey feeding atop a six-foot pole feeder at Tupper Lake since 18 Nov and photographed by Delehanty. It's a tough world out there.

**Contributors:** Ethel & Tom Baker, John Bruce, Greenleaf Chase, Charlcie Delehanty, Mike Devlin, Mark Gretch, Robert Hagar, Judy & Roger Heintz, Candy & John Hess, Selma Isil, Suzy Johnson, Hal Klein, Bill Krueger, Wesley Lanyon, Gary Lee, Rich MacDonald, Gary McChesney, Robert McKinney, Charles Mitchell, Edith Mitchell, John & Susan Peterson, Dean Spaulding, Paul Spitzer, Langdon Stevenson, Lloyd Stotz, John & Pat Thaxton, Don & Donna Traver, Robert Wei, Hollis White.

**Abbreviations:** APt - Ausable Point WMA; CPP - Crown Point

peninsula; CR - Chazy Rivers; FBI - Four Brothers Islands; PtR - Point au Roche; TL - Tupper Lake.

**Fall reports:** **Com. Loon:** calling 8th L 30 Nov (GL), extremely late for interior. **Horned Grebe:** max 10 APt 19 Nov (C&JH). **Red-necked Grebe:** arr three APt 17 Nov (BK, CM). **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 40 CPP 11 Sep (Ja); last Monty Bay 26 Oct (BK). **Am. Bittern:** CR to 27 Sep. **Great Egret:** max *ten* Bombay FRAN 2 Sep (HW), but see also Addendum. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** imm FBI 3 Sep (RM), late. **Mute Swan:** *intro*. **Snow Goose:** *intro*. **Brant:** flock 5th L 27 Oct (GL); 50 Lower St. Regis L 1 Nov (TM). **Canada Goose:** *intro*; one, smaller than nearby Snow Goose, Point au Roche 12-29 Oct had stubby bill of one of the small races. **Gadwall:** CR 13 Sep; Westport 13 Oct, uncommon. **Redhead:** arr three Plattsburgh 30 Oct, scarce in recent years. **Oldsquaw:** arr three Plattsburgh 16 Oct, early. **Black Scoter:** Plattsburgh & PtR 21 Oct-6 Nov, max four on 6 Nov. **Surf Scoter:** Plattsburgh & PtR 29 Sep-21 Oct, max eight on 21 Oct. **White-winged Scoter:** Plattsburgh and PtR 15 Oct 24 Nov, max ten on 1 Nov. **Com. Goldeneye:** arr 30 Horseshoe Pd FRAN 12 Nov (TM). **Barrow's Goldeneye:** drake Plattsburgh 29 Oct (Hal Klein) and PtR 22 Nov (WK). **Bufflehead:** arr Horseshoe Pd 12 Nov. **Ruddy Duck:** hen Plattsburgh 30 Oct (J&RH, WK).

**Bald Eagle:** imm atop Trembleau Mt 8 Oct (WK, CM, LS); ad L Flower 28-29 Nov. **N. Harrier:** one at 4,926 ft Mt Skylight 15 Sep (J&PT). **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** ad male banded Elizabethtown 4 Oct (J&SP). **N. Goshawk:** *intro*. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** three Terry Mt 14 Sep (C&JH). **Rough-legged Hawk:** arr Westport 21 Oct. **Golden Eagle:** ad Keene 16 Oct (PT); max three Northwoods Club ESSE 10 Nov (LS). **Am. Kestrel:** one at 4,926 ft Mt Skylight 15 Sep (J&PT). **Merlin:** CR 7 Sep (HK, BK, CM). **Peregrine Falcon:** *intro*. **Spruce Grouse:** confluence Wolf Pd outlet and Indian R HAMI 21 Nov (GL), at s end of range. **Wild Turkey:** *intro*. **Am. Coot:** two CR 7 Sep (HK, CM), only report. **Black-bellied Plover:** max 3 APt 20 Sep (RM). **Greater Yellowlegs:** APt 20 Sep (RM). **Spotted Sandpiper:** two FBI 3 Sep (RM). **Ruff:** reeve Laurin's Farm 9 (BK) and 13 Sep (WK, CM). **Little Gull:** ad Monty Bay 15 Nov (HK, BK, CM), a good find. **Bonaparte's Gull:** last Westport 13 Oct.

**Mourning Dove:** max 37 TL feeder late Nov (CD), extremely high number for interior Adirondacks. **Snowy Owl:** arr Westville FRAN 23 Nov. **Com. Nighthawk:** six headed s St. Regis R FRAN 8 Sep (HW), only report. **Three-toed Woodpecker:** Killkare-Mohegan L Nov, only report. **Black-backed Woodpecker:** male Baxter Mt 11 Sep (J&PT); Killkare-Mohegan L Nov; orange-crowned male Long Pd FRAN 12 Nov (TM);



female Hurricane Mt 19 Nov (JP, DS); Beaver L trail MRRA 25 Nov; a good showing.

**E. Kingbird:** Saranac Inn 19-30 Sep (CD), late. **Gray Jay:** Raquette L 24 Oct; three visiting a Saranac Inn feeder after 12 Nov (E&TB). **Boreal Chickadee:** Feldspar Brook, Cedar L, Killkare-Mohegan, typical locales. **Tufted Titmouse:** transient near Elizabethtown 14-19 Oct; two Port Kent 8 Nov. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** *intro.* **Am. Pipit:** three at 4,926 ft Mt. Skylight 15 Sep (J&PT); CR 18 Sep and 15 Nov (HK, BK, CM), new early and late CLIN fall records. **Bohemian Waxwing:** arr Wadhams 14 Nov. **Cedar Waxwing:** 30 Cedar R 14-18 Nov (RM), in an aptly named locale but feeding in beech-birch; TL to 28 Nov; far more abundant than the previous species. **N. Shrike:** arr Wadhams 31 Oct.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** one TL 24 Sep (CD). **Cape May Warbler:** one APt 21 Sep (J&RH), CLIN late record. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** SUNY Plattsburgh campus 28 Nov (DS), late. **Pine Warbler:** Saranac L ESSE 24 Sep (RH); Corlear Bay 10 Oct (LS), Saranac L FRAN 23 Nov (GC), seldom reported. **Prairie Warbler:** one Plattsburgh on 1 Oct (J&RH), rare even in spring. **Palm Warbler:** "Western" race Wadhams 25 Sep and 19 Oct, "Yellow" race on 31 Oct (DS); two Hoffmeister 30 Sep; one at Plattsburgh 16 Oct; an excellent showing. **Wilson's Warbler:** singles Keene 22 Sep (WL), TL 25 Sep (CD).

**Chipping Sparrow:** TL to 4 Nov, late. **Vesper Sparrow:** last CLIN 18 Oct (J&RH). **Fox Sparrow:** TL 16 Oct, only report. **White-crowned Sparrow:** max three TL 9 Oct. **Lapland Longspur:** one Algonquin Peak at 5,114' 22 Oct (C&JH). **Snow Bunting:** arr Inlet 24 Oct; Indian L HAMI 6 Nov; max 15 TL 5 Nov. **Red-winged Blackbird:** TL 26-27 Nov, late. **Rusty Blackbird:** arr APt 13 Sep (BK), early CLIN; max 40 APt 8 Oct (LS). **Brown-headed Cowbird:** TL 25-28 Nov, late. **Red Crossbill:** several Baxter Mt. 18-20 Nov (SI). **Pine Siskin:** a flock Baxter Mt. 20 Nov (SI, DS). **European Goldfinch:** one at feeder Plattsburgh remained until 11 Nov (CM, *fide* BK). **Evening Grosbeak:** heard over Elizabethtown 21 Oct, Long Lake 29 Nov.

**Addenda:** **Great Egret:** max 60+ roosting on an island in a beaver pond near Moira FRAN in summer 1994 provide a new max for the Region and FRAN (Phyllis & Wayne Palmer, *The Conservationist* Dec. 1994), undoubtedly originated from the Dickerson I, Quebec, colony. **E. Screech-Owl:** red-phase Keene (about 1,500' elevation) 17-18 Aug (J&PT), unusual so high. **Gray Jay:** one seemed accustomed to hiker handouts Mt Marcy Mar 1992 (Mike Devlin), the most recent report of the High Peaks population.

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## REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

JANE E. GRAVES

Fall 1994 was generally warm and the sixth driest on record as reported from the Albany County Airport. September's mean temperature was 60.9°F, just 0.4° lower than average, with nearly normal sunshine. The 2.15 inches of precipitation was 0.80 inches below normal, with most of the rain occurring on just two days. No frost occurred. October averaged 50.1°F, 0.1° below average, with 75% sunshine. Rainfall was 2.00 inches below the normal 2.83 inches. November averaged 43.3°F, 3.6° above average. There was 50% possible sunshine, 14% more than normal. Precipitation was 1.70 inches below the normal 3.23 inches. The first snow fell on 22 Nov, with 2.5 inches on 27 Nov.

The generally quiet weather produced no major groundings of migrating passerines. However, good numbers of migrants, especially warblers, were noted by Walter Ellison on the SUNY at Albany campus in late September, especially on 29 Sep, when 70 individuals of 11 warbler species were observed. On 2 Oct he found 40 individuals of 12 warbler species at Peeples Island SP. Robert Yunick noted that Black-capped Chickadee and Red-breasted Nuthatch numbers continue to decline at Jenny L SARA with only 16 chickadees banded during the period, and six nuthatches in September. For the first time he noted no White-throated Sparrows in his Schenectady yard during migration. In contrast to last year, few winter finches were present. There were no reports of Pine Grosbeak, Red or White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll or Evening Grosbeak, and very small numbers of Purple Finch and Pine Siskin.

*Great Cormorant* has finally reached the Hudson-Mohawk confluence, after being seen in the New Baltimore area during the past several years. Two or three immatures were present on the lower Mohawk in the Cohoes-Colonie area after 17 Sep. Shorebird reports from the area were down from last year, with only 13 species reported. With the closing of the Niskayuna Landfill, the main area to observe gulls has become the Mohawk River near the Colonie Landfill. Toward the end of the period both Iceland and Lesser Black-Backed Gulls were noted among the thousands of Ring-billed, Herring, and Great Black-backed Gulls.

A total of 194 species was reported during the period. Only one great rarity was reported. In late September, a homeowner in Cambridge noticed an unusual hummingbird coming to her feeder. After some

time, she mentioned the bird to her sister who lived in Pittsfield, MA, who told a birder friend. This friend, with another birder, came to look at the bird in early November and identified it as an adult male *Rufous Hummingbird*. On 9 Nov Barb Putnam was notified and the word was out. The bird was seen and photographed by many people during the next few weeks and a NYSARC report was filed. It remained through the end of the period, surviving two twelve degree nights, and being observed attempting to feed on frozen liquid. The hummingbird was mistnetted by Rich Guthrie and Robert Yunick on 3 Dec, a three hour long process apparently highlighted by the bird's using the top of the mistnet as a perch in between feedings. Once netted, it was examined and found to be quite overweight (a difficult thing to imagine with a creature that weighs only a little over three grams). The bird was removed and transported to a more suitable wintering location. Other unusual birds sighted during the period include Redhead and Barrow's Goldeneye.

**Contributors:** Kenneth Able; Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC); Robert Budliger; Paul Connor; Bill Cook; Walter Ellison; Laurie Freeman; Jane Graves; Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN); Cliff Lamere; William Lee; Alan A. Mapes (AAM); Andy Mason (AM); Nancy Martin; Laura Meade; Frank Murphy; Ray Perry; Barbara Putnam; Jim Sotis; Robert Yunick.

**Abbreviations:** BCWMA - Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area, ALBA; BCRes - Basic Creek Res, ALBA; FREEC - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FtE - Fort Edward area, WASH; L7/NL - Lock 7 and Niskayuna Landfill, SCHE; ML - Myosotis Lake, ALBA; NRP - Nott Road Park, Guilderland, ALBA; PISP - Peebles Island State Park, SARA; SCRes - Stony Creek Reservoir, SARA; SUNYA - S.U.N.Y. at Albany, ALBA; TomRes - Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS.

**Fall reports:** **Com. Loon:** pair with two chicks Jabe Pd WARR 15 Sep (fide LM); one Cossayuna L WASH 15 Oct (JS); last four Saratoga L 25 Nov (JG), scarce. **Pied-billed Grebe:** max 20 BCRes 10 Oct (WE); last two Saratoga L 13 Nov (BP). **Horned Grebe:** last L George WARR 15 Nov (fide LM). **Red-necked Grebe:** last Round L SARA 24 Nov (WE, NM). **Great Cormorant:** *intro*. **Double-crested Cormorant:** reported from Mohawk and Hudson R through Oct, last Saratoga L 13 Nov (HMBC field trip), numbers down. **Am. Bittern:** one T Argyle WASH 22 Oct (fide BP), unusual in fall. **Great Egret:** only two reports, last Stockport Station COLU 17 Sep (ADBC). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** flyover FREEC 5 Sep (AAM), only report. **Snow Goose:** max 100 Hedges L WASH 30 Nov

(JS), numbers down from last two years. **Brant**: one Saratoga L 6 Nov (WL), only report. **Green-winged Teal**: max 63 SCRes 22 Oct (WE, NM). **Blue-winged Teal**: last eight Cohoes Falls ALBA 16 Oct (WE, NM). **Redhead**: five Saratoga L 24 Nov (WE, NM); four still present 27 Nov (BP); one Hudson R COLU 30 Nov (ADBC). **Oldsquaw**: 30 TomRes 2 Nov (WE, NM), only report. **Black Scoter**: three Watervliet Res ALBA 12 Nov (WE, NM), only report. **Surf Scoter**: one TomRes 2 Nov (WE, NM); two Saratoga L 13 Nov (BP) only reports. **White-winged Scoter**: 20 TomRes 2 Nov (WE, NM); three Saratoga L during Nov (CL). **Barrow's Goldeneye**: male Saratoga L 13-30 Nov (WE, NM, BP mob), fourth year in a row. **Hooded Merganser**: max 100 TomRes 11 Nov (FM). **Red-breasted Merganser**: four reports, max 16 Saratoga L 11 Nov (BP).

**Osprey**: eleven reports. **Bald Eagle**: five reports, age not stated for four; one Stuyvesant 3, 18 Sep (ADBC); one Greenport 7 Oct (ADBC); one Stuyvesant 10 Oct (ADBC); one Silver Bay 3 Nov (*fide* LM); ad TomRes 11 Nov (FM). **N. Goshawk**: ad Old Niskayuna RR Station SCHE 20 Nov (RY); one Medway GREE 22 Nov (J. Coe to BEN), only reports. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: last Watervliet Res ALBA 23 Oct (WE). **Rough-legged Hawk**: arr eight FtE 25 Nov (WE, NM). **Merlin**: three reports. **Peregrine Falcon**: one Rogers Rock WARR 1 Sep (*fide* LM), only report. **Wild Turkey**: continues in good numbers throughout, max 69 Bethlehem ALBA 26 Nov (WE, NM). **Am. Golden-Plover**: four Saratoga Sod Farm SARA 7 Sep (BEN). **Semipalmated Plover**: three ML 11 Sep (WE). **Greater Yellowlegs**: last Watervliet Res ALBA 30 Oct (WE). **Lesser Yellowlegs**: last ML 1 Oct (WE). **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: three Cohoes Falls ALBA 6 Nov (WE). **Solitary Sandpiper**: last Ann Lee Pd ALBA 18 Sep (JG). **Least Sandpiper**: four Carter L WASH 5 Sep (JS); max 18 ML 18 Sep (WE); last ML 1 Oct (WE). **Baird's Sandpiper**: four ML 18 Sep (WE, NM). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: four Carter L WASH 5 Sep (JS); one PI 17 Sep (WE, NM mob); two Watervliet Res ALBA 1 Nov (WE), only reports. **Com. Snipe**: last ML 12 Nov (WE, NM). **Bonaparte's Gull**: nine imm TomRes 13 Nov (WE, SL). **Iceland Gull**: singles Stillwater 13 Nov (WE), TomRes 27 Nov (WE), L7/NL 27 Nov (RP), Mohawk R Colonie 30 Nov (WE, NM). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: singles Simons I Cohoes 2 Oct, e Cohoes Falls ALBA 29 Oct (WE, NM), same bird?, Saratoga L 25 Nov (JG).

**Black-billed Cuckoo**: one PISP 17 Sep (RB, JG), only report. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: one FREEC 8 Sep (AAM); only report. **Short-eared Owl**: eight FtE 13 Nov (BP). **Com. Nighthawk**: last Menands ALBA 19 Sep (*fide* WE), scarce. **Chimney Swift**: max 300 Cohoes 15 Sep (BEN). **Rufous Hummingbird**: intro. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one Delmar 25



Nov (BEN). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: six reports. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: five reports; last Austerlitz 26 Nov (ADBC), late.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**: one Hillsdale 9 Sep (ADBC). **Tree Swallow**: last 13 BCRes 1 Oct (WE). **Fish Crow**: five reports, max 20 Colonie 4 Nov (R. Guthrie to BEN). **Com. Raven**: widespread, max ten over Spring L RENS 11 Nov (PC). **Carolina Wren**: three reports. **Winter Wren**: nine reports; last Old Niskayuna Railroad Station SCHE 25 Nov (RY). **E. Bluebird**: seven reports, max 18 NRP 21 Sep (WE). **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: one Bicknell's race Plateau Mt GREE 23 Sep (fide WE); one Skidmore College 11 Oct (JG). **Swainson's Thrush**: five reports; many nocturnal migrants heard on cloudy nights ALBA (WE). **Cedar Waxwing**: max 50 Hague 31 Oct (ER), BCRes 12 Nov (WE, NM).

**Philadelphia Vireo**: four reports, last PISP 18 Sep (JG). **Blue-winged Warbler**: one Mecos 3 Sep (LF), only report. **Tennessee Warbler**: max six SUNYA 29 Sep (WE, NM). **Nashville Warbler**: max six SUNYA 29 Sep (WE, NM). **N. Parula**: max seven SUNYA 29 Sep (WE, NM). **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: max 21 PI 2 Oct (WE), 20 Ravena 29 Oct (BEN). **Black-throated Green Warbler**: max 20 SUNYA 29 Sep (WE). **Palm Warbler**: ten reports, max 18 SUNYA 29 Sep (WE, NM). **Connecticut Warbler**: one PISP 10 Sep (FM). **Mourning Warbler**: one Skidmore College 5 Sep (JG) only report. **Wilson's Warbler**: only two reports.

**Indigo Bunting**: last two imm Skidmore College 11 Sep (JG). **Am. Tree Sparrow**: arr Austerlitz 28 Oct (ADBC). **Vesper Sparrow**: last Kinderhook 28 Sep (ADBC). **Fox Sparrow**: last one Ghent 22 Nov (ADBC). **Lincoln's Sparrow**: five reports. **White-throated Sparrow**: arr NRP 21 Sep (WE). **White-crowned Sparrow**: arr two Stanton Pd ALBA 1 Oct (WE). **Lapland Longspur**: one in flight BCWMA 23 Oct (WE). **Snow Bunting**: two reports. **E. Meadowlark**: one FtE 12 Nov (BP) late. **Rusty Blackbird**: max 75 Watervliet Res ALBA 1 Nov (WE, NM). **Pine Siskin**: two Stephentown Center RENS 18 Nov (PC), only report.

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## REGION 9 — HUDSON-DELAWARE

JOHN P. ASKILDSEN

Weather during the fall 1994 could best be summed up as unremarkable. Temperatures were about average. October was a bit on the dry side, November brought a nor' easter on the first. The heavy rains associated with this coastal storm brought seasonal rainfall measurements up to about average. Hurricane Gordon, which threatened the Long Island Sound area from 18-20 Nov, never really materialized into anything more than gusty winds and had little effect on the birds. In fact, there were no weather events, even the nor'easter, that hindered migration or deposited any unusual rarities in the Region.

Bird reports reflected good numbers of the expected migrants, plus an impressive number of reports of the rare, but expected western vagrant species familiar in the northeast. *Black Vulture* reports continue to be on the increase in the Region. A hawk watch study conducted at the Mohonk Preserve ULST tallied numerous Black Vultures. So many were seen moving north rather than south though, that the actual number of migrants counted was pared way down. A major Yellow-rumped Warbler migration push was noted on 11 Oct, when reports from different stations describing "flocks of hundreds" flying overhead in the early morning hours. However, this year's winter finch flight consisted of a single Common Redpoll, a single Pine Siskin and scattered Evening Grosbeak, which didn't persist. Purple Finch was scarce. The later two species nest in the Region.

As previously stated, this fall's list of rarities is well rounded and includes reports of multiple sightings of hard to find vagrants. Unfortunately, no "mega ticks" were reported. Three Northern Gannet were undoubtedly directly related to the distant but approaching Hurricane Gordon. An *American White Pelican* departed as quickly as it came. Quite a find was an adult blue-morph *Ross's Goose*, which may well be a first State record of this very rare color morph. Reports of a whopping 35 Black Vulture were received this fall, primarily from ULST, ORAN and ROCK. All counties in the Region did report sightings though. *Mississippi Kite* and *Swainson's Hawk* delighted raptor enumerators at local hawk watches. A *Sandhill Crane* kept birding ranks entertained in Sep. Notable passerines included Boreal Chickadee, Northern Shrike, *Blue Grosbeak*. Clay-colored Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, and *Harris's Sparrow*.

This is my last Regional Report. I want to thank everyone who contributed to the Region 9 report over the past year. The new Region 9 Editor is Michael Usai, 70 Virginia Road Apt. 18A, North White Plains, New York 10603.

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**Abbreviations:** BSHW - Butler Sanctuary Hawk Watch, Bedford, WEST; DTR - Doodletown Road, ROCK; EGR - Edith G. Read Preserve, Rye; HMHW - Hook Mt. Hawk Watch, ROCK; HR - Hudson River; MC - Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; MOHW - Mohonk Hawk Watch, ORAN; MPHWH - Mt. Peter Hawk Watch, ORAN.

**Fall Reports:** **Com. Loon:** max 30 Ashokan Res late Oct. **Red-necked Grebe:** two HR Dutc 9 Nov. **N. Gannet:** three Long Island Sound off Rye 19 Nov. **Am. White Pelican:** one Milton Harbor MC 20 Sep (KF). **Great Cormorant:** arr 18 Sep EGR. **Am. Bittern:** one HR Dutc 25 Sep. **Little Blue Heron:** one MC during Sep. **Great Egret:** max 42 MC 16 Sep. **Snowy Egret:** 20 MC 16 Sep. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 27 EGR 30 Oct. **Ross's Goose:** blue morph Round Pd Amenia Dutc 12-13 Nov (Dot Fleury, Mary Yegella, Marion Van Wagner, Barbara Butler, Helen Manson, mob, NYSARC). **Eurasian Wigeon:** arr Rockland L SP 29 Oct (Joe Scordato, ET). **Com. Merganser:** ad with y SULL 31 Aug.

Hawk Watch Totals:	MPHW	BSHW	HMHW	MOHW
<b>Black Vulture</b>	4	2	4	13
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>	72	223	90	75
<b>Osprey</b>	127	234	253	54
<b>Bald Eagle</b>	11	17	31	5
<b>Northern Harrier</b>	55	99	140	49
<b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b>	1078	1383	2621	491
<b>Cooper's Hawk</b>	134	198	141	28
<b>Northern Goshawk</b>	1	7	8	4
<b>Red-shouldered Hawk</b>	37	28	36	35
<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>	3381	10377	5811	308
<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>	577	259	23	242
<b>Rough-legged Hawk</b>	0	1	0	0
<b>Golden Eagle</b>	12	4	2	2
<b>American Kestrel</b>	321	461	433	139
<b>Merlin</b>	15	22	27	3
<b>Peregrine</b>	7	7	12	7
<b>Unidentified &amp; rarities</b>	100	33	32	138
<b>Total</b>	5932	13355	9664	1593

**Black Vulture:** three Dutc in Sep; max five n ROCK all season; one SULL 3 Oct; three near HR ULST in Oct. **Mississippi Kite:** HMHW 24 Sep (Vince

Plogar, Paddy French). *Swainson's Hawk*: ad low and directly overhead BSHW 12 Sep (Jackie Speicher, Thomas Meyer), second record there. *Rough-legged Hawk*: arr dark morph SULL 12 Oct; dark morph w ORAN 12 Nov. *Golden Eagle*: imm Pine Plains Dutc 6 Sep; imm SULL 21 Oct; wintering pair arr Stissing Mt Dutc 16 Oct. *Clapper Rail*: one MC through late Sep. *Virginia Rail*: arr MC early Oct. *Sora*: arr 10 Oct MC. *Sandhill Crane*: imm in a roadside field 1-9 Sep Forestburgh SULL (Phyllis Jones), very approachable as often typical of that age. *Am. Golden-Plover*: two MC 17 Sep; three-five Ashokan Res Dutc mid Sep; 26 w ORAN 1 Nov, late. *W. Sandpiper*: one MC Oct; one Ashokan Res mid Oct. *White-rumped Sandpiper*: One MC 1-5 Sep. *Baird's Sandpiper*: three Ashokan Res ULST 2 Nov (Mark DeDea), late. *Stilt Sandpiper*: max two MC 13 Sep-10 Oct. *Lesser Black-backed Gull*: two annually wintering adults arr Rye early Sep; third year bird Rye 25 Sep (TB). *Caspian Tern*: ad MC 4 Sep (TB). *Black Tern*: one EGR 18 Sep (AG).

*Long-eared Owl*: one Dutc 1-21 Oct. *Short-eared Owl*: one central WEST 30 Nov (MU). *Red-headed Woodpecker*: one Blue Chip Farms ULST all season; imm DTR through Nov; one s WEST 7 Oct. *Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*: present in higher than usual numbers.

*Com. Raven*: 34 n SULL 14 Nov around road-killed deer; reported from as far south as s ROCK, n WEST. *Boreal Chickadee*: returned to Patterson PUTN feeder 30 Nov (Hunter Pollack), where present last winter through early spring. (*Bicknell's*) *Gray-cheeked Thrush*: two atop Slide Mt ULST 25 Sept (Walter Ellison, Chris Rimmer). *N. Shrike*: near Round Pd Amenia Dutc 15 Nov (Chet Vincent).

*Philadelphia Vireo*: scattered reports in Sep. *Mourning Warbler*: one Dutc 21 Sep.

*Blue Grosbeak*: one Flint P Larchmont WEST 28 Sep (KF). *Clay-colored Sparrow*: one Wallkill Valley NWR ORAN 27 Oct (SA); one EGR 6 Nov (TB). *Vesper Sparrow*: well represented in early Oct throughout Region. *Lark Sparrow*: ad MPH 7 Oct (Chris Vogel, NYSARC), remained only an hour before moving along with the flock of birds with which it was associated. *Grasshopper Sparrow*: Kensico Res WEST 12 Sep and 11 Oct (MU), increasingly uncommon migrant in Region. *Sharp-tailed Sparrow*: two-five individuals MC all season. *Harris's Sparrow*: ad at feeder Hurleyville SULL 26-30 Oct (Kris Conklin, Valerie Freer, mob, NYSARC); imm Wallkill Valley NWR ORAN 27 Oct (Scott Angus, NYSARC). *Lapland Longspur*: six w ORAN 12 Nov (JY, GT). *Purple Finch*: scarce. *Com. Redpoll*: one at feeder Dutc 7-12 Nov (J. Vesley, Eleanor Pink). *Pine Siskin*: one SULL 19 Oct. *Evening Grosbeak*: singles widespread Sep-Oct.

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## REGION 10 — MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF AND ALVIN WOLLIN

The fall season began with both normal temperatures and normal rainfall for the month of September. October also had normal temperatures but was exceptionally dry. Only a scant 1.35 inches of rain fell, less than half the norm. In November the rainfall returned to normal, but now the temperature was extraordinary. November was the fourth warmest on record. Summing up, this was an exceptionally warm, dry fall. As a result there were fewer noticeable flight days, many lingering warblers and few or no winter finches. The lack of rain in mid season, with its concomitant fewer frontal systems, had to have affected flight patterns of migrant birds. This year, total hawks numbers, which have been increasing at the hawk watches for several years, were down. The optimist in us likes to attribute this to the weather and consequent alteration of flight patterns rather than to a reversal of recent gains.

The status of Bald Eagle is undergoing a major change in our Region. The number of reports have increased and the number of individuals seen is increasing. In all we received 34 sightings. Steve Walter reported six from the Fort Tilden Hawk Watch, 6, 24 Aug, 29, 30 Sep, and 2, 5 Oct. There were sixteen seen from Central Park on 18 Sep with seven more the next day. Other reports included singles at Fire Island Hawk Watch on 2 Oct, Central Park on 27 Oct, and Hook Pond on 20 Nov.

Results from a single pelagic trip from Montauk to Block Canyon was reported by John Askildson, Tony Lauro, and Paul Buckley. For some time we have seen very few blue morph Snow Goose reports. This year reports were numerous and widespread, and many flocks included one or more individuals. Turkey Vulture sightings are increasing in the Region. Numbers of Rough-legged Hawk along the Meadowbrook, Loop and Ocean Parkways were up, nearly equal to the numbers of Red-tailed Hawk. One or two Golden Eagle are now seen each fall; they used to be few and far between. Lesser Black-backed Gull is seen in increasing numbers; this season at least six widely scattered birds were reported. Short-eared Owl was very scarce, and Red-breasted Nuthatch was virtually absent. Cape May Warbler have been scarce since the 1985 fall hurricane. Clay-colored Sparrow continues to migrate through the Region in small numbers.

Great rarities reported included *Audubon's Shearwater*, *Black Vulture*, *Long-billed Curlew*, *Ash-throated Flycatcher*, *Fork-tailed Flycatcher*, *Sedge Wren*, *Northern Wheatear*, and *Lark Bunting*.

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**Abbreviations:** CBch – Cedar Beach; CP – Central Park; DPt – Democrat Pt., Fire I.; JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JFKWS – John F. Kennedy (Tobay) Wildlife Sanctuary; JBch – Jones Beach; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; LI – Long Island; MPt – Montauk Point; NYRBA – New York Rare Bird Alert; Pkwy – Parkway; RMSP – Robert Moses State Park.

**Fall reports:** **Red-necked Grebe:** Marine P Brooklyn 20, 26 Nov; MPt 25 Nov (NYRBA). **Eared Grebe:** three JBWR 10 Sep (JC, Allen Bendiger). **Cory's Shearwater:** 50 se MPt 10 Sep. **Greater Shearwater:** 500 se MPt 10 Sep. **Sooty Shearwater:** three se MPt 10 Sep. **Audubon's Shearwater:** one se MPt 10 Sep. **Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** 175 se MPt 10 Sep. **Tundra Swan:** eight Hook Pd after 20 Nov (NYRBA). **Eurasian Wigeon:** two JBWR after mid Oct; Mill Pd Oyster Bay 8 Nov (Neal Maruca). **Tufted Duck:** male JBWR 23–29 Oct (Seth Ausabel, mob). **Com. Eider:** four MPt 16 Oct, 75 12 Nov (NYRBA). **Harlequin Duck:** DPt 10 Nov, two Greenport 12 Nov (BP), eight Pt Lookout after 24 Nov (mob).

**Black Vulture:** two CP 19 Sep (Sharon Freidman *fide* NYRBA). **Turkey Vulture:** several Staten I (HF), Fort Tilden (SW); Lattingtown 8 Nov (RC). **Bald Eagle:** *intro.* **Broad-winged Hawk:** 5400 CP 18 Sep (NYRBA). **Golden Eagle:** Fort Tilden Hawk Watch Fort 16 Oct (*fide* SW), CP 27 Oct (NYRBA). **Am. Kestrel:** 895 Fort Tilden Hawk Watch 30 Sep (SW). **Am. Golden-Plover:** 45 Cutchogue sod farms 4 Sep (PG), other reports along south shore. **Piping Plover:** five DPt 30 Sep (JF). **Am. Oystercatcher:** 100 Jones Inlet 2 Oct (NYRBA). **Am. Avocet:** two Zachs Bay 9 Sep (EL), one 10 Sep (SS), JBWR 25 Sep (Al Ott) to mid Oct (SK). **Willet:** JBWR to mid Oct. **Whimbrel:** several each sighting s shore LI mid-late Sep (mob). **Long-billed Curlew:** one with Whimbrel Ocean Parkway near Gilgo 18 Sep (EL). **Hudsonian Godwit:** scarce. **Marbled Godwit:** one JBWR 3–5 Sep; one CBch 6–12 Sep (mob), one DPt 24 Sep–9 Oct (NYRBA); four JBWR 12 Nov into Dec. **Baird's Sandpiper:** CBch mid Sep, others indicated. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** six Cutchogue sod farms 1 Sep, nine on 4 Sep (PG); singles CBch 11–18 Sep (NYRBA), JBWR 11 Sep (IC). **Red-necked Phalarope:** 20 se MPt 10 Sep, **Pomarine Jaeger:** seven se MPt 10 Sep, two MPt 10 Oct (SK), one DPt 23 Oct (NYRBA). **Parasitic Jaeger:** three se MPt 10 Sep; two MPt 9 Oct, MPt 16 Oct, JBch 15 Oct, DPt 23 Oct, 10 Nov, MPt 19 Nov (NYRBA). **Little Gull:** DPt 8 Sep, North Haven 19 Nov (NYRBA). **Com. Black-headed Gull:** MPt 19 Nov (AL). **Iceland Gull:** MPt 25 Nov (NYRBA). **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** two MPt 18 Sep, JBWE 30 Sep–22 Oct, two JBWE 22 Oct, Oyster Pd 16 Oct, CBch 23 Oct, MPt 19 and 25 Nov, Orient Pt 27 Nov (NYRBA). **Black-legged Kittiwake:** MPt 16 Oct, DPt 23 Oct (NYRBA). **Gull-billed Tern:** JBWR 4 Sep (NYRBA). **Caspian Tern:** Great Kills P Staten I 4 Sep (Ed Johnson *fide* HF).

**Royal Tern:** JBch to Fire I early Sep-12 Nov, max eight DPt 23 Oct (NYRBA). **Com. Tern:** one Dosoris Pd Glen Cove 23 Nov (RC). **Forster's Tern:** 110+ Dosoris Pd Glen Cove 16 Oct (RC); 80-90 Glen Cove 31 Oct (Herb Mills), one to 30 Nov, 56 DPt 12 Nov.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** RMSP 15 Sep (JQ), JBch 4 Oct (LP, LS). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** JBWR 3 Nov (NYRBA), late. **Snowy Owl:** JBWR 25 Nov (Mike Bochnik *fide* NYRBA). **Long-eared Owl:** two JBWE 12 Nov, CP 26 Nov (NYRBA), others present. **Short-eared Owl:** JBWR 29 Oct, CBch 20 Nov (NYRBA). **N. Saw-whet Owl:** arr 12 Nov, five Tobay 20 Nov (NYRBA). **Red-headed Woodpecker:** migrant on the south shore 20 Sep-2 Oct.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Clove L P Staten I 3 Sep (HF). Garvies Pt Preserve 6 Sep (Don & Ginny Thompson), Zach's Bay 10 Sep (SS). **Ash-throated Flycatcher:** JBWE 23 Oct (Matt Bayer, mob), RMSP 8-9 Nov (JF, JQ). **W. Kingbird:** CBch 8 Sep, JFKWS 19 Sep (JF), Fort Tilden 30 Sep, RMSP 8-9 Nov. **Fork-tailed Flycatcher:** RMSP 3 Nov (EL). **Tree Swallow:** wintering on the bay side of Tobay parking lot. **Sedge Wren:** Montauk dump 25 Sep (AB), seldom reported. **N. Wheatear:** CBch 5 Sep (mob), 11 Sep JFKWS.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** singles s shore LI 18 Sep-2 Oct. **Golden-winged Warbler:** Gilgo 11 Sep, JBch 24 Sep (NYRBA), rare on LI especially in recent years. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** JBWR 4 Sep, RMSP 2 and 12 Oct, Montauk dump 20 Nov (NYRBA). **Nashville Warbler:** Gilgo 29 Oct (JQ). **N. Waterthrush:** Zach's Bay to 24 Oct (mob). **Kentucky Warbler:** Zach's Bay 25 Sep (NYRBA). **Connecticut Warbler:** JBWR 11 Sep (IC). **Mourning Warbler:** several reports. **Hooded Warbler:** Fire I 23 Sep (HR, LS). **Yellow-breasted Chat:** CBch 6 Sep, RMSP 8-11 Sep (JQ, JF), one at sea se MPt 10 Sep; MPt 11 Sep, JBch 19 Sep, Zachs Bay 25 Sep, JBch 10 Nov, Montauk Dump 20 Nov.

**Blue Grosbeak:** six widely scattered reports. **Dickcissel:** a dozen reports widely scattered. **Clay-colored Sparrow:** a half dozen widely scattered reports. **Vesper Sparrow:** several reports. **Lark Sparrow:** JBch strip 6 Sep-4 Oct. **Lark Bunting:** female JBWR 19 Sep (Phillip Dempsey *fide* Tom Burke). **Grasshopper Sparrow:** Zachs Bay 29 Sep (JQ, JF). CP 11-12 Oct (NYRBA). **Lapland Longspur:** two in a flock of Snow Bunting 17 Nov (AW, SS). **Snow Bunting:** 150-200 at JBWE, an increase over recent years. **Rusty Blackbird:** scattered records through the period. **Boat-tailed Grackle:** four-six Shinnecock Inlet 18 Sep-28 Oct (PG). **N. Oriole:** *Bullock's type* JBWE 6 Oct (AW, SS).

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## CORRIGENDUM

Modern electronic type-setting has brought a new gremlin to publishing, which sabotaged the tables on pages 278 and 279 of *The Kingbird*, Vol. 44, 1994. The problem arises because different printers and software sometimes subtly adjust the width of type. This occasionally causes lines of text to expand just enough that a mindless computer moves a word to where it is unwanted. That happened once on each of the following two tables, so they are being reprinted here.

*The Editor*

**Table 1. The 1981 predicted additions to the New York State Checklist of Birds (Able 1983).**

P. A. Buckley	T. H. Davis	P. A. DeBenedictis	R. O. Paxton	K. P. Able
The predicted next ten additions to the New York State list				
<i>Mew Gull</i>	<i>Mew Gull</i>	Groove-billed Ani	*Rufous Hummingbird	<i>Mew Gull</i>
<i>Sharp-tailed Sandpiper</i>	<i>Rufous-necked Stint</i>	<i>Sharp-tailed Sandpiper</i>	<i>Spotted Redshank</i>	<i>Rufous-necked Stint</i>
Western Wood-Pewee	<i>Sharp-tailed Sandpiper</i>	<i>Rufous-necked Stint</i>	<i>Mew Gull</i>	Rufous Hummingbird
<i>Spotted Redshank</i>	Black-browed Albatross	Black-tailed Godwit	Common Ground-Dove	Black-tailed Godwit
Great-tailed Grackle	Garganey	<i>Vermilion Flycatcher</i>	<i>Rufous-necked Stint</i>	<i>Spotted Redshank</i>
<i>Rufous-necked Stint</i>	Virginia's Warbler	Hammond's Flycatcher	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Ross' Gull</i>
**Harcourt's Storm-Petrel	<i>Little Stint</i>	Harcourt's Storm-Petrel	Hermit Warbler	Great-tailed Grackle
<i>Ross' Goose</i>	<i>Ross' Gull</i>	Band-tailed Pigeon	Black-chinned Sparrow	Common Ground-Dove
Lazuli Bunting	Black-throated Sparrow	Lazuli Bunting	Hammond's Flycatcher	<i>Rock Wren</i>
Ancient Murrelet	<i>Spotted Redshank</i>	<i>Reddish Egret</i>	Sprague's Pipit	Prairie Falcon

The predicted next five documented breeding species in descending order of likelihood.

White-faced Ibis	<i>Wilson's Phalarope</i>	<i>Boat-tailed Grackle</i>	Royal Tern
<i>Wilson's Phalarope</i>	<i>Blue Grosbeak</i>	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Blue Grosbeak</i>
Black Vulture	Royal Tern	Yellow Rail	Lesser Black-backed Gull
<i>Blue Grosbeak</i>	Manx Shearwater	Royal Tern	<i>White-winged Crossbill</i>
Brewer's Blackbird	Black Vulture	Manx Shearwater	Horned Grebe

\*The NYSARC considered a *Selasphorus* hummingbird discovered by Geoffrey Carleton (*Kingbird* 31:3) to be indeterminate as to species; Rufous Hummingbird currently is under review based on several subsequent reports.

\*\*The English name of Harcourt's Storm-Petrel was changed to Band-rumped Storm-Petrel in 1983.



**Table 2. The 1992 predicted additions to the New York State Checklist of Birds, in descending order of likelihood (DeBenedictis lists in AOU Check-list order).**

K. P. Able	P. A. Buckley	A. J. Lauro	R. O. Paxton	P. A. DeBenedictis
The predicted next ten additions to the New York State list				
Little Egret	Black-browed Albatross	Little Egret	Ancient Murrelet	Band-rumped Storm-Petrel
Garganey	Little Egret	Garganey	Black-tailed Godwit	Black-tailed Godwit
Black-tailed Godwit	Garganey	*Pacific Golden-Plover	Hammond's Flycatcher	Brown Noddy
Common Ground-Dove	Common Ringed Plover	Black-tailed Godwit	Virginia's Warbler	Common Ground-Dove
Great-tailed Grackle	**European Golden-Plover	Brown Noddy	Eurasian Kestrel	Groove-billed Ani
Mongolian Plover	Black-tailed Godwit	Common Ground-Dove	European Golden-Plover	Hammond's Flycatcher
Anna's Hummingbird	Long-toed Stint	Lewis' Woodpecker	Black-throated Sparrow	Virginia's Warbler
Ancient Murrelet	MacGillivray's Warbler	Carolina Chickadee	Hermit Warbler	Cassin's Sparrow
Groove-billed Ani	Shiny Cowbird	Shiny Cowbird	Shiny Cowbird	Black-throated Sparrow
Brown Noddy	Great-tailed Grackle	Common Ringed Plover	Lewis's Woodpecker	Shiny Cowbird

The predicted next five documented breeding species.

Black Vulture	Brown Pelican	Great Cormorant	Black Vulture	Black Vulture
Brewer's Blackbird	Sandhill Crane	Little Gull	Summer Tanager	Yellow Rail
Royal Tern	American Pipit	Black Vulture	Wilson's Phalarope	American Avocet
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Brewer's Blackbird	Carolina Chickadee	Royal Tern	Royal Tern
Fox Sparrow	Yellow-headed Blackbird	Pine Grosbeak	Brewer's Blackbird	Brewer's Blackbird
* <i>Pluvialis fulva</i>				
** <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> (Greater Golden-Plover)				

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*The Kingbird* publishes papers on all aspects of the ornithology of New York State. Manuscripts must be typed single-sided, double-spaced with at least one-inch margins on all sides. Follow similar articles in recent issues as guides to style. Names of bird species follow the most recent A.O.U. Check-list and its supplements. Place tables on a separate page each. Figures should be drawn in black ink. Photographs should be submitted as 35 mm slides or as black-and-white glossy prints. Place all captions on a separate page. Submission of manuscripts on computer diskette (3.5 inch preferred) is encouraged, but identification of the word processing software (including its version) used and printed copy must accompany such submissions. Manuscripts may be submitted to The Editor of *The Kingbird* or to the Chair of the Publications Committee.

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*continued on inside*